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(54) Title: HCV GENOMIC SEQUENCES FOR DIAGNOSTICS AND THERAPEUTICS

(57) Abstract

The present application features nucleic acid, peptide and antibody compositions relating to genotypes of hepatitis C virus and methods of using such compositions for diagnostic and therapeutic purposes.

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HCV GENOMIC SEQUENCES FOR  
DIAGNOSTICS AND THERAPEUTICS

This application is a continuation-in-part of U.S.  
5 Serial No. 07/697,326 entitled "Polynucleotide Probes  
Useful for Screening for Hepatitis C Virus, filed May  
8, 1991.

Technical Field

10 The invention relates to compositions and methods  
for the detection and treatment of hepatitis C virus,  
(HCV) infection, formerly referred to as blood-borne  
non-A, non-B hepatitis virus (NANBV) infection. More  
specifically, embodiments of the present invention  
15 feature compositions and methods for the detection of  
HCV, and for the development of vaccines for the  
prophylactic treatment of infections of HCV, and  
development of antibody products for conveying passive  
immunity to HCV.

20

Background of the Invention

The prototype isolate of HCV was characterized in  
U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 122,714 (See also  
EPO Publication No. 318,216). As used herein, the term  
25 "HCV" includes new isolates of the same viral species.  
The term "HCV-1" referred to in U.S. Patent Application  
Serial No. 122,714.

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HCV is a transmissible disease distinguishable from other forms of viral-associated liver diseases, including that caused by the known hepatitis viruses, i.e., hepatitis A virus (HAV), hepatitis B virus (HBV), and delta hepatitis virus (HDV), as well as the hepatitis induced by cytomegalovirus (CMV) or Epstein-Barr virus (EBV). HCV was first identified in individuals who had received blood transfusions.

The demand for sensitive, specific methods for screening and identifying carriers of HCV and HCV contaminated blood or blood products is significant. Post-transfusion hepatitis (PTH) occurs in approximately 10% of transfused patients, and HCV accounts for up to 90% of these cases. The disease frequently progresses to chronic liver damage (25-55%).

Patient care as well as the prevention of transmission of HCV by blood and blood products or by close personal contact require reliable screening, diagnostic and prognostic tools to detect nucleic acids, antigens and antibodies related to HCV.

Information in this application suggests the HCV has several genotypes. That is, the genetic information of the HCV virus may not be totally identical for all HCV, but encompasses groups with differing genetic information.

Genetic information is stored in thread-like molecules of DNA and RNA. DNA consists of covalently

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linked chains of deoxyribonucleotides and RNA consists of covalently linked chains of ribonucleotides. Each nucleotide is characterized by one of four bases: adenine (A), guanine (G), thymine (T), and cytosine

5        (C). The bases are complementary in the sense that, due to the orientation of functional groups, certain base pairs attract and bond to each other through hydrogen bonding and  $\pi$ -stacking interactions.

Adenine in one strand of DNA pairs with thymine in an

10      opposing complementary strand. Guanine in one strand of DNA pairs with cytosine in an opposing complementary strand. In RNA, the thymine base is replaced by uracil (U) which pairs with adenine in an opposing complementary strand. The genetic code of living

15      organism is carried in the sequence of base pairs. Living cells interpret, transcribe and translate the information of nucleic acid to make proteins and peptides.

The HCV genome is comprised of a single positive

20      strand of RNA. The HCV genome possesses a continuous, translational open reading frame (ORF) that encodes a polyprotein of about 3,000 amino acids. In the ORF, the structural protein(s) appear to be encoded in approximately the first quarter of the N-terminus

25      region, with the majority of the polyprotein responsible for non-structural proteins.

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The HCV polyprotein comprises, from the amino terminus to the carboxy terminus, the nucleocapsid protein (C), the envelope protein (E), and the non-structural proteins (NS) 1, 2 (b), 3, 4 (b), and 5.

5 HCV of differing genotypes may encode for proteins which present an altered response to host immune systems. HCV of differing genotypes may be difficult to detect by immuno diagnostic techniques and nucleic acid probe techniques which are not specifically directed to such genotype.

10 Definitions for selected terms used in the application are set forth below to facilitate an understanding of the invention. The term "corresponding" means homologous to or complementary to 15 a particular sequence of nucleic acid. As between nucleic acids and peptides, corresponding refers to amino acids of a peptide in an order derived from the sequence of a nucleic acid or its complement.

15 The term "non-naturally occurring nucleic acid" 20 refers to a portion of genomic nucleic acid, cDNA, semisynthetic nucleic acid, or synthetic origin nucleic acid which, by virtue of its origin or manipulation: (1) is not associated with all of a nucleic acid with which it is associated in nature, (2) is linked to a 25 nucleic acid or other chemical agent other than that to

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which it is linked in nature, or (3) does not occur in nature.

Similarly the term, "a non-naturally occurring peptide" refers to a portion of a large naturally occurring peptide or protein, or semi-synthetic or synthetic peptide, which by virtue of its origin or manipulation (1) is not associated with all of a peptide with which it is associated in nature, (2) is linked to peptides, functional groups or chemical agents other than that to which it is linked in nature, or (3) does not occur in nature.

The term "primer" refers to a nucleic acid which is capable of initiating the synthesis of a larger nucleic acid when placed under appropriate conditions.

15 The primer will be completely or substantially complementary to a region of the nucleic acid to be copied. Thus, under conditions conducive to hybridization, the primer will anneal to a complementary region of a larger nucleic acid. Upon 20 addition of suitable reactants, the primer is extended by the polymerizing agent to form a copy of the larger nucleic acid.

The term "binding pair" refers to any pair of molecules which exhibit mutual affinity or binding 25 capacity. For the purposes of the present application, the term "ligand" will refer to one molecule of the binding pair, and the term "antiligand" or "receptor"

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or "target" will refer to the opposite molecule of the binding pair. For example, with respect to nucleic acids, a binding pair may comprise two complementary nucleic acids. One of the nucleic acids may be 5 designated the ligand and the other strand is designated the antiligand receptor or target. The designation of ligand or antiligand is a matter of arbitrary convenience. Other binding pairs comprise, by way of example, antigens and antibodies, drugs and 10 drug receptor sites and enzymes and enzyme substrates, to name a few.

The term "label" refers to a molecular moiety capable of detection including, by way of example, without limitation, radioactive isotopes, enzymes, 15 luminescent agents, precipitating agents, and dyes.

The term "support" includes conventional supports such as filters and membranes as well as retrievable supports which can be substantially dispersed within a medium and removed or separated from the medium by 20 immobilization, filtering, partitioning, or the like. The term "support means" refers to supports capable of being associated to nucleic acids, peptides or antibodies by binding partners, or covalent or noncovalent linkages.

25 A number of HCV strains and isolates have been identified. When compared with the sequence of the original isolate derived from the USA ("HCV-1"; see

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Q.-L. Choo et al. (1989) Science 244:359-362, Q.-L. Choo et al. (1990) Brit. Med. Bull. 46:423-441, Q.-L. Choo et al., Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. 88:2451-2455 (1991), and E.P.O. Patent Publication No. 318,216, 5 cited supra), it was found that a Japanese isolate ("HCV J1") differed significantly in both nucleotide and polypeptide sequence within the NS3 and NS4 regions. This conclusion was later extended to the NS5 and envelope (E1/S and E2/NS1) regions (see K. Takeuchi 10 et al., J. Gen. Virol. (1990) 71:3027-3033, Y. Kubo, Nucl. Acids. Res. (1989) 17:10367-10372, and K. Takeuchi et al., Gene (1990) 91:287-291). The former group of isolates, originally identified in the United States, is termed "Genotype I" throughout the present 15 disclosure, while the latter group of isolates, initially identified in Japan, is termed "Genotype II" herein.

Brief Description of the Invention

20 The present invention features compositions of matter comprising nucleic acids and peptides corresponding to the HCV viral genome which define different genotypes. The present invention also features methods of using the compositions 25 corresponding to sequences of the HCV viral genome which define different genotypes described herein.

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**A. Nucleic acid compositions**

The nucleic acid of the present invention, corresponding to the HCV viral genome which define different genotypes, have utility as probes in nucleic acid hybridization assays, as primers for reactions involving the synthesis of nucleic acid, as binding partners for separating HCV viral nucleic acid from other constituents which may be present, and as anti-sense nucleic acid for preventing the transcription or translation of viral nucleic acid.

One embodiment of the present invention features a composition comprising a non-naturally occurring nucleic acid having a nucleic acid sequence of at least eight nucleotides corresponding to a non-HCV-1 nucleotide sequence of the hepatitis C viral genome. Preferably, the nucleotide sequence is selected from a sequence present in at least one region consisting of the NS5 region, envelope 1 region, 5'UT region, and the core region.

Preferably, with respect to sequences which correspond to the NS5 region, the sequence is selected from a sequence within a sequence numbered 2-22. The sequence numbered 1 corresponds to HCV-1. Sequences numbered 1-22 are defined in the Sequence Listing of the application.

Preferably, with respect to sequences corresponding to the envelope 1 region, the sequence is

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selected from a sequence within sequences numbered 24-32. Sequence No. 23 corresponds to HCV-1.

Sequences numbered 23-32 are set forth in the Sequence Listing of the application.

5 Preferably, with respect to the sequences which correspond to the 5'UT regions, the sequence is selected from a sequence within sequences numbered 34-51. Sequence No. 33 corresponds to HCV-1. Sequence No. 33-51 are set forth in the Sequence Listing of this  
10 application.

Preferably, with respect to the sequences which correspond to the core region, the sequence is selected from a sequence within the sequences numbered 53-66. Sequence No. 52 corresponds to HCV-1. Sequences 52-66  
15 are set forth in the Sequence Listing of this application.

The compositions of the present invention form hybridization products with nucleic acid corresponding to different genotypes of HCV.

20 HCV has at least five genotypes, which will be referred to in this application by the designations GI-GV. The first genotype, GI, is exemplified by sequences numbered 1-6, 23-25, 33-38 and 52-57. The second genotype, GII, is exemplified by the sequences  
25 numbered 7-12, 26-28, 39-45 and 58-64. The third genotype, GIII, is exemplified by sequences numbered 13-17, 32, 46-47 and 65-66. The fourth genotype, GIV,

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is exemplified by sequences numbered 20-22, and 29-31 and 48-49. The fifth genotype, GV, is exemplified by sequences numbered 18, 19, 50 and 51.

One embodiment of the present invention features 5 compositions comprising a nucleic acid having a sequence corresponding to one or more sequences which exemplify a genotype of HCV.

**B. Method of forming a Hybridization Product**

10 Embodiments of the present invention also feature a method of forming a hybridization product with nucleic acid having a sequence corresponding to HCV nucleic acid. One method comprises the steps of placing a non-naturally occurring nucleic acid having a 15 non-HCV-1 sequence corresponding to HCV nucleic acid under conditions in which hybridization may occur. The non-naturally occurring nucleic acid is capable of forming a hybridization product with HCV nucleic acid, under hybridization conditions. The method further 20 comprises the step of imposing hybridization conditions to form a hybridization product in the presence of nucleic acid corresponding to a region of the HCV genome.

25 The formation of a hybridization product has utility for detecting the presence of one or more genotypes of HCV. Preferably, the non-naturally occurring nucleic acid forms a hybridization product

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with nucleic acid of HCV in one or more regions comprising the NS5 region, envelope 1 region, 5'UT region and the core region. To detect the hybridization product, it is useful to associate the

5 non-naturally occurring nucleic acid with a label. The formation of the hybridization product is detected by separating the hybridization product from labeled non-naturally occurring nucleic acid, which has not formed a hybridization product.

10 The formation of a hybridization product has utility as a means of separating one or more genotypes of HCV nucleic acid from other constituents potentially present. For such applications, it is useful to associate the non-naturally occurring nucleic acid with

15 a support for separating the resultant hybridization product from the the other constituents.

Nucleic acid "sandwich assays" employ one nucleic acid associated with a label and a second nucleic acid associated with a support. An embodiment of the

20 present invention features a sandwich assay comprising two nucleic acids, both have sequences which correspond to HCV nucleic acids; however, at least one non-naturally occurring nucleic acid has a sequence corresponding to non-HCV-1 HCV nucleic acid. At least

25 one nucleic acid is capable of associating with a label, and the other is capable of associating with a support. The support associated non-naturally

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occurring nucleic acid is used to separate the hybridization products which include an HCV nucleic acid and the non-naturally occurring nucleic acid having a non-HCV-1 sequence.

5 One embodiment of the present invention features a method of detecting one or more genotypes of HCV. The method comprises the steps of placing a non-naturally occurring nucleic acid under conditions which hybridization may occur. The non-naturally occurring 10 nucleic acid is capable of forming a hybridization product with nucleic acid from one or more genotypes of HCV. The first genotype, G1, is exemplified by sequences numbered 1-6, 23-25, 33-38 and 52-57. The second genotype, GII, is exemplified by the sequences 15 numbered 7-12, 26-28, 39-45 and 58-64. The third genotype, GIII, is exemplified by sequences numbered 13-17, 32, 46-47 and 65-66. The fourth genotype, GIV, is exemplified sequences numbered 20-22 and 29-31. The fifth genotype, GV, is exemplified by sequences 20 numbered 18, 19, 50 and 51.

25 The hybridization product of HCV nucleic acid with a non-naturally occurring nucleic acid having non-HCV-1 sequence corresponding to sequences within the HCV genome has utility for priming a reaction for the synthesis of nucleic acid.

The hybridization product of HCV nucleic acid with a non-naturally occurring nucleic acid having a

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sequence corresponding to a particular genotype of HCV has utility for priming a reaction for the synthesis of nucleic acid of such genotype. In one embodiment, the synthesized nucleic acid is indicative of the presence 5 of one or more genotypes of HCV.

The synthesis of nucleic acid may also facilitate cloning of the nucleic acid into expression vectors which synthesize viral proteins.

Embodiments of the present methods have utility as 10 anti-sense agents for preventing the transcription or translation of viral nucleic acid. The formation of a hybridization product of a non-naturally occurring nucleic acid having sequences which correspond to a particular genotype of HCV genomic sequencing with HCV 15 nucleic acid may block translation or transcription of such genotype. Therapeutic agents can be engineered to include all five genotypes for inclusivity..

C. Peptide and antibody composition

A further embodiment of the present invention 20 features a composition of matter comprising a non-naturally occurring peptide of three or more amino acids corresponding to a nucleic acid having a non-HCV-1 sequence. Preferably, the non-HCV-1 sequence corresponds with a sequence within one or more regions 25 consisting of the NSS region, the envelope 1 region, the 5'UT region, and the core region.

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Preferably, with respect to peptides corresponding to a nucleic acid having a non-HCV-1 sequence of the NS5 region, the sequence is within sequences numbered 2-22. The sequence numbered 1 corresponds to HCV-1. 5 Sequences numbered 1-22 are set forth in the Sequence Listing.

Preferably, with respect to peptides corresponding to a nucleic acid having a non-HCV-1 sequence of the envelope 1 region, the sequence is within sequences numbered 24-32. The sequence numbered 23 corresponds to HCV-1. Sequences numbered 23-32 are set forth in the Sequence Listing.

Preferably, with respect to peptides corresponding to a nucleic acid having a non-HCV-1 sequence directed 15 to the core region, the sequence is within sequences numbered 53-66. Sequence numbered 52 corresponds to HCV-1. Sequences numbered 52-66 are set forth in the Sequence Listing.

The further embodiment of the present invention 20 features peptide compositions corresponding to nucleic acid sequences of a genotype of HCV. The first genotype, GI, is exemplified by sequences numbered 1-6, 23-25, 33-38 and 52-57. The second genotype, GII, is exemplified by the sequences numbered 7-12, 26-28, 25 39-45 and 58-64. The third genotype, GIII, is exemplified by sequences numbered 13-17, 32, 46-47 and 65-66. The fourth genotype, GIV, is exemplified

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sequences numbered 20-22, 29-31, 48 and 49. The fifth genotype, GV, is exemplified by sequences numbered 18, 19, 50 and 51.

The non-naturally occurring peptides of the present invention are useful as a component of a vaccine. The sequence information of the present invention permits the design of vaccines which are inclusive for all or some of the different genotypes of HCV. Directing a vaccine to a particular genotype allows prophylactic treatment to be tailored to maximize the protection to those agents likely to be encountered. Directing a vaccine to more than one genotype allows the vaccine to be more inclusive.

The peptide compositions are also useful for the development of specific antibodies to the HCV proteins. One embodiment of the present invention features as a composition of matter, an antibody to peptides corresponding to a non-HCV-1 sequence of the HCV genome. Preferably, the non-HCV-1 sequence is selected from the sequence within a region consisting of the NS5 region, the envelope 1 region, and the core region. There are no peptides associated with the untranslated 5'UT region.

Preferably, with respect to antibodies directed to peptides of the NS5 region, the peptide corresponds to a sequence within sequences numbered 2-22. Preferably, with respect to antibodies directed to a peptide

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corresponding to the envelope 1 region, the peptide corresponds to a sequence within sequences numbered 24-32. Preferably, with respect to the antibodies directed to peptides corresponding to the core region,  
5 the peptide corresponds to a sequence within sequences numbered 53-66.

Antibodies directed to peptides which reflect a particular genotype have utility for the detection of such genotypes of HCV and therapeutic agents..

10 One embodiment of the present invention features an antibody directed to a peptide corresponding to nucleic acid having sequences of a particular genotype. The first genotype, GI, is exemplified by sequences numbered 1-6, 23-25, 33-38 and 52-57. The  
15 second genotype, GII, is exemplified by the sequences numbered 7-12, 26-28, 39-45 and 58-64. The third genotype, GIII, is exemplified by sequences numbered 13-17, 32, 46-47 and 65-66. The fourth genotype, GIV, is exemplified sequences numbered 20-22, 29-31, 48 and  
20 49. The fifth genotype, GV, is exemplified by sequences numbered 18, 19, 50 and 51.

Individuals skilled in the art will readily recognize that the compositions of the present invention can be packaged with instructions for use in  
25 the form of a kit for performing nucleic acid hybridizations or immunochemical reactions.

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The present invention is further described in the following figures which illustrate sequences demonstrating genotypes of HCV. The sequences are designated by numerals 1-145, which numerals and 5 sequences are consistent with the numerals and sequences set forth in the Sequence Listing. Sequences 146 and 147 facilitate the discussion of an assay which numerals and sequences are consistent with the numerals and sequences set forth in the Sequence Listing.

10

Brief Description of the Figures and Sequence Listing

Figure 1 depicts schematically the genetic organization of HCV;

15 Figure 2 sets forth nucleic acid sequences numbered 1-22 which sequences are derived from the NS5 region of the HCV viral genome;

Figure 3 sets forth nucleic acid sequences numbered 23-32 which sequences are derived from the envelope 1 region of the HCV viral genome;

20 Figure 4 sets forth nucleic acid sequences numbered 33-51 which sequences are derived from the 5'UT region of the HCV viral genome; and,

Figure 5 sets forth nucleic acid sequences numbered 52-66 which sequences are derived from the 25 core region of the HCV viral genome.

The Sequence Listing sets forth the sequences of sequences numbered 1-147.

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Detailed Description of the Invention

The present invention will be described in detail as a nucleic acid having sequences corresponding to the HCV genome and related peptides and binding

5 partners, for diagnostic and therapeutic applications.

The practice of the present invention will employ, unless otherwise indicated, conventional techniques of chemistry, molecular biology, microbiology, recombinant DNA, and immunology, which are within the skill of the

10 art. Such techniques are explained fully in the literature. See e.g., Maniatis, Fritsch & Sambrook,

Molecular Cloning; A Laboratory Manual (1982); DNA

Cloning, Volumes I and II (D.N. Glover ed. 1985);

Oligonucleotide Synthesis (M.J. Gait ed. 1984); Nucleic

15 Acid Hybridization (B.D. Hames & S.J. Higgins eds.

1984); the series, Methods in Enzymology (Academic

Press, Inc.), particularly Vol. 154 and Vol. 155 (Wu  
and Grossman, eds.).

The cDNA libraries are derived from nucleic acid

20 sequences present in the plasma of an HCV-infected

chimpanzee. The construction of one of these

libraries, the "c" library (ATCC No. 40394), is

described in PCT Pub. No. WO90/14436. The sequences of  
the library relevant to the present invention are set  
forth herein as sequence numbers 1, 23, 33 and 52.

25 Nucleic acids isolated or synthesized in  
accordance with features of the present invention are

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useful, by way of example without limitation as probes, primers, anti-sense genes and for developing expression systems for the synthesis of peptides corresponding to such sequences.

5 The nucleic acid sequences described define genotypes of HCV with respect to four regions of the viral genome. Figure 1 depicts schematically the organization of HCV. The four regions of particular interest are the NS5 region, the envelope 1 region, the  
10 5'UT region and the core region.

The sequences set forth in the present application as sequences numbered 1-22 suggest at least five genotypes in the NS5 region. Sequences numbered 1-22 are depicted in Figure 2 as well as the Sequence  
15 Listing. Each sequence numbered 1-22 is derived from nucleic acid having 340 nucleotides from the NS5 region.

The five genotypes are defined by groupings of the sequences defined by sequence numbered 1-22. For convenience, in the present application, the different  
20 genotypes will be assigned roman numerals and the letter "G".

The first genotype (GI) is exemplified by sequences within sequences numbered 1-6. A second genotype (GII) is exemplified by sequences within  
25 sequences numbered 7-12. A third genotype (GIII) is exemplified by the sequences within sequences numbered 13-17. A fourth genotype (GIV) is exemplified by

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sequences within sequences numbered 20-22. A fifth genotype (GV) is exemplified by sequences within sequences numbered 18 and 19.

The sequences set forth in the present application 5 as sequences numbered 23-32 suggest at least four genotypes in the envelope 1 region of HCV. Sequences numbered 23-32 are depicted in Figure 3 as well as in the Sequence Listing. Each sequence numbered 23-32 is derived from nucleic acid having 100 nucleotides from 10 the envelope 1 region.

A first envelope 1 genotype group (GI) is exemplified by the sequences within the sequences numbered 23-25. A second envelope 1 genotype (GII) region is exemplified by sequences within sequences 15 numbered 26-28. A third envelope 1 genotype (GIII) is exemplified by the sequences within sequences numbered 32. A fourth envelope 1 genotype (GIV) is exemplified by the sequences within sequence numbered 29-31.

The sequences set forth in the present application 20 as sequences numbered 33-51 suggest at least three genotypes in the 5'UT region of HCV. Sequences numbered 33-51 are depicted in Figure 4 as well as in the Sequence Listing. Each sequence numbered 33-51 is derived from the nucleic acid having 252 nucleotides 25 from the 5'UT region, although sequences 50 and 51 are somewhat shorter at approximately 180 nucleotides.

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The first 5'UT genotype (GI) is exemplified by the sequences within sequences numbered 33-38. A second 5'UT genotype (GII) is exemplified by the sequences within sequences numbered 39-45. A third 5'UT genotype 5 (GIII) is exemplified by the sequences within sequences numbered 46-47. A fourth 5'UT genotype (GIV) is exemplified by sequences within sequences numbered 48 and 49. A fifth 5'UT genotype (GV) is exemplified by sequences within sequences numbered 50 and 51.

10 The sequences numbered 48-62 suggest at least three genotypes in the core region of HCV. The sequences numbered 52-66 are depicted in Figure 5 as well as in the Sequence Listing.

15 The first core region genotype (GI) is exemplified by the sequences within sequences numbered 52-57. The second core region genotype (GII) is exemplified by sequences within sequences numbered 58-64. The third core region genotype (GIII) is exemplified by sequences within sequences numbered 65 and 66. Sequences 20 numbered 52-65 are comprised of 549 nucleotides. Sequence numbered 66 is comprised of 510 nucleotides.

25 The various genotypes described with respect to each region are consistent. That is, HCV having features of the first genotype with respect to the NS5 region will substantially conform to features of the first genotype of the envelope 1 region, the 5'UT region and the core region.

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Nucleic acid isolated or synthesized in accordance with the sequences set forth in sequence numbers 1-66 are useful as probes, primers, capture ligands and anti-sense agents. As probes, primers, capture ligands and anti-sense agents, the nucleic acid will normally comprise approximately eight or more nucleotides for specificity as well as the ability to form stable hybridization products.

10 Probes

A nucleic acid isolated or synthesized in accordance with a sequence defining a particular genotype of a region of the HCV genome can be used as a probe to detect such genotype or used in combination with other nucleic acid probes to detect substantially all genotypes of HCV.

With the sequence information set forth in the present application, sequences of eight or more nucleotides are identified which provide the desired inclusivity and exclusivity with respect to various genotypes within HCV, and extraneous nucleic acid sequences likely to be encountered during hybridization conditions.

Individuals skilled in the art will readily recognize that the nucleic acid sequences, for use as probes, can be provided with a label to facilitate detection of a hybridization product.

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Capture Ligand

For use as a capture ligand, the nucleic acid selected in the manner described above with respect to probes, can be readily associated with supports. The

5 manner in which nucleic acid is associated with supports is well known. Nucleic acid having sequences corresponding to a sequence within sequences numbered 1-66 have utility to separate viral nucleic acid of one genotype from the nucleic acid of HCV of a different 10 genotype. Nucleic acid isolated or synthesized in accordance with sequences within sequences numbered 1-66, used in combinations, have utility to capture substantially all nucleic acid of all HCV genotypes.

15 Primers

Nucleic acid isolated or synthesized in accordance with the sequences described herein have utility as primers for the amplification of HCV sequences. With respect to polymerase chain reaction (PCR) techniques,

20 nucleic acid sequences of eight or more nucleotides corresponding to one or more sequences of sequences numbered 1-66 have utility in conjunction with suitable enzymes and reagents to create copies of the viral nucleic acid. A plurality of primers having different 25 sequences corresponding to more than one genotype can be used to create copies of viral nucleic acid for such genotypes.

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5        The copies can be used in diagnostic assays to  
detect HCV virus. The copies can also be incorporated  
into cloning and expression vectors to generate  
polypeptides corresponding to the nucleic acid  
10      synthesized by PCR, as will be described in greater  
detail below.

Anti-sense

10      Nucleic acid isolated or synthesized in accordance  
with the sequences described herein have utility as  
anti-sense genes to prevent the expression of HCV.

15      Nucleic acid corresponding to a genotype of HCV is  
loaded into a suitable carrier such as a liposome for  
introduction into a cell infected with HCV. A nucleic  
acid having eight or more nucleotides is capable of  
20      binding to viral nucleic acid or viral messenger RNA.  
Preferably, the anti-sense nucleic acid is comprised of  
30 or more nucleotides to provide necessary stability  
of a hybridization product of viral nucleic acid or  
25      viral messenger RNA. Methods for loading anti-sense  
nucleic acid is known in the art as exemplified by U.S.  
Patent 4,241,046 issued December 23, 1980 to  
Papahadjopoulos et al.

25      Peptide Synthesis

Nucleic acid isolated or synthesized in accordance  
with the sequences described herein have utility to

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generate peptides. The sequences exemplified by sequences numbered 1-32 and 52-66 can be cloned into suitable vectors or used to isolate nucleic acid. The isolated nucleic acid is combined with suitable DNA 5 linkers and cloned into a suitable vector. The vector can be used to transform a suitable host organism such as E. coli and the peptide encoded by the sequences isolated.

10 Molecular cloning techniques are described in the text Molecular Cloning: A Laboratory Manual, Maniatis et al., ColdSpring Harbor Laboratory (1982).

The isolated peptide has utility as an antigenic substance for the development of vaccines and antibodies directed to the particular genotype of HCV.

15

Vaccines and Antibodies

The peptide materials of the present invention have utility for the development of antibodies and vaccines.

20

The availability of cDNA sequences, or nucleotide sequences derived therefrom (including segments and modifications of the sequence), permits the construction of expression vectors encoding antigenically active regions of the peptide encoded in either strand. The antigenically active regions may be derived from the NS5 region, envelope 1 regions, and the core region.

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Fragments encoding the desired peptides are derived from the cDNA clones using conventional restriction digestion or by synthetic methods, and are ligated into vectors which may, for example, contain

5 portions of fusion sequences such as beta galactosidase or superoxide dismutase (SOD), preferably SOD. Methods and vectors which are useful for the production of polypeptides which contain fusion sequences of SOD are described in European Patent Office Publication number

10 0196056, published October 1, 1986.

Any desired portion of the HCV cDNA containing an open reading frame, in either sense strand, can be obtained as a recombinant peptide, such as a mature or fusion protein; alternatively, a peptide encoded in the

15 cDNA can be provided by chemical synthesis.

The DNA encoding the desired peptide, whether in fused or mature form, and whether or not containing a signal sequence to permit secretion, may be ligated into expression vectors suitable for any convenient

20 host. Both eukaryotic and prokaryotic host systems are presently used in forming recombinant peptides. The peptide is then isolated from lysed cells or from the culture medium and purified to the extent needed for its intended use. Purification may be by techniques

25 known in the art, for example, differential extraction, salt fractionation, chromatography on ion exchange resins, affinity chromatography, centrifugation, and

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the like. See, for example, Methods in Enzymology for a variety of methods for purifying proteins. Such peptides can be used as diagnostics, or those which give rise to neutralizing antibodies may be formulated 5 into vaccines. Antibodies raised against these peptides can also be used as diagnostics, or for passive immunotherapy or for isolating and identifying HCV.

An antigenic region of a peptide is generally 10 relatively small--typically 8 to 10 amino acids or less in length. Fragments of as few as 5 amino acids may characterize an antigenic region. These segments may correspond to NS5 region, envelope 1 region, and the core region of the HCV genome. The 5'UT region is not 15 known to be translated. Accordingly, using the cDNAs of such regions, DNAs encoding short segments of HCV peptides corresponding to such regions can be expressed recombinantly either as fusion proteins, or as isolated peptides. In addition, short amino acid sequences can 20 be conveniently obtained by chemical synthesis. In instances wherein the synthesized peptide is correctly configured so as to provide the correct epitope, but is too small to be immunogenic, the peptide may be linked to a suitable carrier.

25 A number of techniques for obtaining such linkage are known in the art, including the formation of disulfide linkages using N-succinimidyl-3-(2-

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pyridylthio)propionate (SPDP) and succinimidyl 4-(N-maleimido-methyl)cyclohexane-1-carboxylate (SMCC) obtained from Pierce Company, Rockford, Illinois. (if the peptide lacks a sulfhydryl group, this can be 5 provided by addition of a cysteine residue). These reagents create a disulfide linkage between themselves and peptide cysteine residues on one protein and an amide linkage through the epsilon-amino on a lysine, or other free amino group in the other. A variety of such 10 disulfide/amide-forming agents are known. See, for example, Immun Rev (1982) 62:185. Other bifunctional coupling agents form a thioether rather than a disulfide linkage. Many of these thio-ether-forming agents are commercially available and include reactive 15 esters of 6-maleimidocapric acid, 2-bromoacetic acid, 2-iodoacetic acid, 4-N-maleimido-methyl)cyclohexane-1-carboxylic acid, and the like. The carboxyl groups can be activated by combining them with succinimide or 1-hydroxyl-2 nitro-4-sulfonic acid, sodium salt. 20 Additional methods of coupling antigens employs the rotavirus/"binding peptide" system described in EPO Pub. No. 259,149, the disclosure of which is incorporated herein by reference. The foregoing list is not meant to be exhaustive, and modifications of the 25 named compounds can clearly be used.

Any carrier may be used which does not itself induce the production of antibodies harmful to the

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host. Suitable carriers are typically large, slowly metabolized macromolecules such as proteins; polysaccharides, such as latex functionalized Sepharose, agarose, cellulose, cellulose beads and the like; polymeric amino acids, such as polyglutamic acid, polylysine, and the like; amino acid copolymers; and inactive virus particles. Especially useful protein substrates are serum albumins, keyhole limpet hemocyanin, immunoglobulin molecules, thyroglobulin, ovalbumin, tetanus toxoid, and other proteins well known to those skilled in the art.

Peptides comprising HCV amino acid sequences encoding at least one viral epitope derived from the NS5, envelope 1, and core region are useful immunological reagents. The 5'UT region is not known to be translated. For example, peptides comprising such truncated sequences can be used as reagents in an immunoassay. These peptides also are candidate subunit antigens in compositions for antiserum production or vaccines. While the truncated sequences can be produced by various known treatments of native viral protein, it is generally preferred to make synthetic or recombinant peptides comprising HCV sequence. Peptides comprising these truncated HCV sequences can be made up entirely of HCV sequences (one or more epitopes, either contiguous or noncontiguous), or HCV sequences and heterologous sequences in a fusion protein. Useful

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heterologous sequences include sequences that provide for secretion from a recombinant host, enhance the immunological reactivity of the HCV epitope(s), or facilitate the coupling of the polypeptide to an immunoassay support or a vaccine carrier. See, E.G., 5 EPO Pub. No. 116,201; U.S. Pat. No. 4,722,840; EPO Pub. No. 259,149; U.S. Pat. No. 4,629,783.

10 The size of peptides comprising the truncated HCV sequences can vary widely, the minimum size being a sequence of sufficient size to provide an HCV epitope, while the maximum size is not critical. For convenience, the maximum size usually is not substantially greater than that required to provide the desired HCV epitopes and function(s) of the 15 heterologous sequence, if any. Typically, the truncated HCV amino acid sequence will range from about 5 to about 100 amino acids in length. More typically, however, the HCV sequence will be a maximum of about 50 amino acids in length, preferably a maximum of about 30 20 amino acids. It is usually desirable to select HCV sequences of at least about 10, 12 or 15 amino acids, up to a maximum of about 20 or 25 amino acids.

25 HCV amino acid sequences comprising epitopes can be identified in a number of ways. For example, the entire protein sequence corresponding to each of the NS5, envelope 1, and core regions can be screened by preparing a series of short peptides that together span

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the entire protein sequence of such regions. By starting with, for example, peptides of approximately 100 amino acids, it would be routine to test each peptide for the presence of epitope(s) showing a 5 desired reactivity, and then testing progressively smaller and overlapping fragments from an identified peptides of 100 amino acids to map the epitope of interest. Screening such peptides in an immunoassay is within the skill of the art. It is also known to carry 10 out a computer analysis of a protein sequence to identify potential epitopes, and then prepare peptides comprising the identified regions for screening.

The immunogenicity of the epitopes of HCV may also be enhanced by preparing them in mammalian or yeast 15 systems fused with or assembled with particle-forming proteins such as, for example, that associated with hepatitis B surface antigen. See, e.g., US 4,722,840. Constructs wherein the HCV epitope is linked directly to the particle-forming protein coding sequences 20 produce hybrids which are immunogenic with respect to the HCV epitope. In addition, all of the vectors prepared include epitopes specific to HBV, having various degrees of immunogenicity, such as, for example, the pre-S peptide. Thus, particles 25 constructed from particle forming protein which include HCV sequences are immunogenic with respect to HCV and HBV.

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Hepatitis surface antigen (HBSAg) has been shown to be formed and assembled into particles in S. cerevisiae (P. Valenzuela et al. (1982)), as well as in, for example, mammalian cells (P. Valenzuela et al. 5 1984)). The formation of such particles has been shown to enhance the immunogenicity of the monomer subunit. The constructs may also include the immunodominant epitope of HBSAg, comprising the 55 amino acids of the presurface (pre-S) region. Neurath et al. (1984). 10 Constructs of the pre-S-HBSAg particle expressible in yeast are disclosed in EPO 174,444, published March 19, 1986; hybrids including heterologous viral sequences for yeast expression are disclosed in EPO 175,261, published March 26, 1986. These constructs may also be 15 expressed in mammalian cells such as Chinese hamster ovary (CHO) cells using an SV40-dihydrofolate reductase vector (Michelle et al. (1984)).

In addition, portions of the particle-forming protein coding sequence may be replaced with codons 20 encoding an HCV epitope. In this replacement, regions which are not required to mediate the aggregation of the units to form immunogenic particles in yeast of mammals can be deleted, thus eliminating additional HBV antigenic sites from competition with the HCV epitope.

25

vaccines

Vaccines may be prepared from one or more

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immunogenic peptides derived from HCV. The observed homology between HCV and Flaviviruses provides information concerning the peptides which are likely to be most effective as vaccines, as well as the regions of the genome in which they are encoded.

5 Multivalent vaccines against HCV may be comprised of one or more epitopes from one or more proteins derived from the NS5, envelope 1, and core regions. In particular, vaccines are contemplated comprising one or 10 more HCV proteins or subunit antigens derived from the NS5, envelope 1, and core regions. The 5'UT region is not known to be translated.

15 The preparation of vaccines which contain an immunogenic peptide as an active ingredient, is known to one skilled in the art. Typically, such vaccines are prepared as injectables, either as liquid solutions or suspensions; solid forms suitable for solution in, or suspension in, liquid prior to injection may also be prepared. The preparation may also be emulsified, or 20 the protein encapsulated in liposomes. The active immunogenic ingredients are often mixed with excipients which are pharmaceutically acceptable and compatible with the active ingredient. Suitable excipients are, for example, water, saline, dextrose, glycerol, 25 ethanol, or the like and combinations thereof. In addition, if desired, the vaccine may contain minor amounts of auxiliary substances such as wetting or

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emulsifying agents, pH buffering agents, and/or adjuvants which enhance the effectiveness of the vaccine. Examples of adjuvants which may be effective include but are not limited to: aluminum hydroxide.

5 N-acetyl-muramyl-L-threonyl-D-isoglutamine (thr-MDP),  
N-acetyl-nor-muramyl-L-alanyl-D-isoglutamine (CGP  
11637, referred to as nor-MDP), N-acetylmuramyl-L-  
alanyl-D-isoglutaminyl-L-alanine-2-(1-2-dipalmitoyl  
-sn-glycero-3-hydroxyphosphoryloxy)-ethylamine (CGP  
19835A, referred to as MTP-PE), and RIBI, which  
10 contains three components extracted from bacteria,  
monophosphoryl lipid A, trehalose dimycolate and cell  
wall skeleton (MPL+TDM+CWS) in a 2½ squalene/Tween 80  
emulsion. The effectiveness of an adjuvant may be  
15 determined by measuring the amount of antibodies  
directed against an immunogenic peptide containing an  
HCV antigenic sequence resulting from administration of  
this peptide in vaccines which are also comprised of  
the various adjuvants.

20 The vaccines are conventionally administered  
parenterally, by injection, for example, either  
subcutaneously or intramuscularly. Additional  
formulations which are suitable for other modes of  
25 administration include suppositories and, in some  
cases, oral formulations. For suppositories,  
traditional binders and carriers may include, for  
example, polyalkylene glycols or triglycerides; such

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suppositories may be formed from mixtures containing the active ingredient in the range of 0/5% to 10%, preferably 1½-2%. Oral formulations include such normally employed excipients as, for example,

5 pharmaceutical grades of mannitol, lactose, starch, magnesium stearate, sodium saccharine, cellulose, magnesium carbonate, and the like.

The examples below are provided for illustrative purposes and are not intended to limit the scope of the  
10 present invention.

I. Detection of HCV RNA from Serum

RNA was extracted from serum using guanidinium salt, phenol and chloroform according to the  
15 instructions of the kit manufacturer (RNAzol™ B kit, Cimna/Biotecx). Extracted RNA was precipitated with isopropanol and washed with ethanol. A total of 25 µl serum was processed for RNA isolation, and the purified RNA was resuspended in 5 µl diethyl  
20 pyrocarbonate treated water for subsequent cDNA synthesis.

II. cDNA Synthesis and Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) Amplification

25 Table 1 lists the sequence and position (with reference to HCV1) of all the PCR primers and probes used in these examples. Letter designations for

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nucleotides are consistent with 37 C.F.R. 551.821-1.825. Thus, the letters A, C, G, T, and U are used in the ordinary sense of adenine, cytosine, guanine, thymine, and uracil. The letter M means A or C; R means A or G; W means A or T/U; S means C or G; Y means C or T/U; K means G or T/U; V means A or C or G, not C or T/U; H means A or C or T/U, not G; D means A or G or T/U, not C; B means C or G or T/U, not A; N means (A or C or G or T/U) or (unknown or other). Table 1 is set forth below:

Table 1

Seq. No.	Sequence (5'-3')	Nucleotide Position
----------	------------------	---------------------

15	67 CAAACGTAACACCAACCGRCGCCACAGG	374-402
	68 ACAGAYCCGCAKAGRITCCCCACGG	1192-1169
	69 GCAACCTCGAGGTAGACGTCAGCCTATCCC	509-538
	70 GCAACCTCGTGGAAAGGCGACAACCTATCCC	509-538
	71 GTCACCAATGATTGCCCTAACTCGAGTATT	948-977
20	72 GTCACGAACGACTGCTCCAACCTCAAG	948-973
	73 TGGACATGATCGCTGGWGCGYCACTGGGG	1375-1402
	74 TGGAYATGGTGGYGGGGGCGYCACTGGGG	1375-1402
	75 ATGATGAACCTGGTCVCCYAC	1308-1327
	76 ACCTTVGCCAGTTSCCRCCATGGA	1453-1428
25	77 AACCCACTCTATGYCCGGYCAT	205-226
	78 GAATCGCTGGGTGACCG	171-188
	79 CCATGAATCACTCCCCGTGAGGAACTA	30-57
	80 TTGGGGGGCACGCCAA	244-227

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For cDNA synthesis and PCR amplification, a protocol developed by Perkin-Elmer/Cetus (GeneAmp® RNA PCR kit) was used. Both random hexamer and primers with specific complementary sequences to HCV were 5 employed to prime the reverse transcription (RT) reaction. All processes, except for adding and mixing reaction components, were performed in a thermal cycler (MJ Research, Inc.). The first strand cDNA synthesis reaction was inactivated at 99°C for 5 min, and then 10 cooled at 50°C for 5 min before adding reaction components for subsequent amplification. After an initial 5 cycles of 97°C for 1 min, 50°C for 2 min, and 72°C for 3 min, 30 cycles of 94°C for 1 min, 55°C for 2 min, and 72°C for 3 min followed, and then a final 7 15 min of elongation at 72°C.

For the genotyping analysis, sequences 67 and 68 were used as primers in the PCR reaction. These primers amplify a segment corresponding to the core and envelope regions. After amplification, the reaction 20 products were separated on an agarose gel and then transferred to a nylon membrane. The immobilized reaction products were allowed to hybridize with a <sup>32</sup>P-labelled nucleic acid corresponding to either Genotype I (core or envelope 1) or Genotype II (core or 25 envelope 1). Nucleic acid corresponding to Genotype I comprised sequences numbered 69 (core), 71 (envelope), and 73 (envelope). Nucleic acid corresponding to

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Genotype II comprised sequences numbered 70 (core), 72 (envelope), and 74 (envelope).

The Genotype I probes only hybridized to the product amplified from isolates which had Genotype I sequence. Similarly, Genotype II probes only hybridized to the product amplified from isolates which had Genotype II sequence.

In another experiment, PCR products were generated using sequences 79 and 80. The products were analyzed as described above except Sequence No. 73 was used to detect Genotype I, Sequence No. 74 was used to detect Genotype II, Sequence No. 77 (5'UT) was used to detect Genotype III, and Sequence No. 78 (5'UT) was used to detect Genotype IV. Each sequence hybridized in a genotype specific manner.

III. Detection of HCV GI-GIV using a sandwich hybridization assay for HCV RNA

An amplified solution phase nucleic acid sandwich hybridization assay format is described in this example. The assay format employs several nucleic acid probes to effect capture and detection. A capture probe nucleic acid is capable of associating a complementary probe bound to a solid support and HCV nucleic acid to effect capture. A detection probe nucleic acid has a first segment (A) that binds to HCV nucleic acid and a second segment (B) that hybridizes to a second amplifier nucleic acid.

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The amplifier nucleic acid has a first segment (B\*) that hybridizes to segment (B) of the probe nucleic acid and also comprises fifteen iterations of a segment (C). Segment C of the amplifier nucleic acid is 5 capable of hybridizing to three labeled nucleic acids.

Nucleic acid sequences which correspond to nucleotide sequences of the envelope 1 gene of Group I HCV isolates are set forth in sequences numbered 81-99. Table 2 sets forth the area of the HCV genome 10 to which the nucleic acid sequences correspond and a preferred use of the sequences.

Table 2

Probe Type	Sequence No.	Complement of Nucleotide Numbers
15		
Label	81	879-911
Label	82	912-944
Capture	83	945-977
20		
Label	84	978-1010
Label	85	1011-1043
Label	86	1044-1076
Label	87	1077-1109
Capture	88	1110-1142
25		
Label	89	1143-1175

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Table 2 continued

Probe Type	Sequence No.	Complement of Nucleotide Numbers
5	Label 90	1176-1208
	Label 91	1209-1241
	Label 92	1242-1274
	Capture 93	1275-1307
10	Label 94	1308-1340
	Label 95	1341-1373
	Label 96	1374-1406
	Label 97	1407-1439
15	Capture 98	1440-1472
	Label 99	1473-1505

Nucleic acid sequences which correspond to nucleotide sequences of the envelope 1 gene of Group II HCV isolates are set forth in sequences 100-118. Table 20 3 sets forth the area of the HCV genome to which the nucleic acid corresponds and the preferred use of the sequences.

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Table 3

Probe Type	Sequence No.	Complement of Nucleotide Numbers
5	Label 100	879-911
	Label 101	912-944
	Capture 102	945-977
	Label 103	978-1010
	Label 104	1011-1043
	Label 105	1044-1076
10	Label 106	1077-1109
	Capture 107	1110-1142
	Label 108	1143-1175
	Label 109	1176-1208
	Label 110	1209-1241
	Label 111	1242-1274
15	Capture 112	1275-1307
	Label 113	1308-1340
	Label 114	1341-1373
	Label 115	1374-1406
	Label 116	1407-1439
	Capture 117	1440-1472
20	Label 118	1473-1505
25	Nucleic acid sequences which correspond to nucleotide sequences in the C gene and the 5'UT region	

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are set forth in sequences 119-145. Table 4 identifies the sequence with a preferred use.

Table 4

5

	Probe Type	Sequence No.
10	Capture	119
	Label	120
	Label	121
	Label	122
	Capture	123
	Label	124
15	Label	125
	Label	126
	Capture	127
	Label	128
	Label	129
	Label	130
20	Capture	131
	Label	132
	Label	133
	Label	134
	Label	135
	Capture	136
25	Label	137
	Label	138

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Table 4 continued

	Probe Type	Sequence No.
5	Label	139
	Capture	140
	Label	141
	Label	142
	Label	143
10	Capture	144
	Label	145

The detection and capture probe HCV-specific segments, and their respective names as used in this assay were as follows.

15                   Capture sequences are sequences numbered  
                  119-122 and 141-144.  
                  Detection sequences are sequences numbered  
                  119-140.

20 Each detection sequence contained, in addition to  
the sequences substantially complementary to the HCV  
sequences, a 5' extension (B) which extension (B) is  
complementary to a segment of the second amplifier  
nucleic acid. The extension (B) sequence is identified  
in the Sequence Listing as Sequence No. 146, and is  
25 reproduced below.

AGGCATAGGACCCGTGTCTT

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Each capture sequence contained, in addition to the sequences substantially complementary to HCV sequences, a sequence complementary to DNA bound to a solid phase. The sequence complementary to DNA bound to a solid support was carried downstream from the capture sequence. The sequence complementary to the DNA bound to the support is set forth as Sequence No. 147 and is reproduced below.

CTTCTTGGAGAAAGTGGTG

10      Microtiter plates were prepared as follows. White Microlite 1 Removawell strips (polystyrene microtiter plates, 96 wells/plate) were purchased from Dynatech Inc.

15      Each well was filled with 200  $\mu$ l 1 N HCl and incubated at room temperature for 15-20 min. The plates were then washed 4 times with 1X PBS and the wells aspirated to remove liquid. The wells were then filled with 200  $\mu$ l 1 N NaOH and incubated at room temperature for 15-20 min. The plates were again washed 4 times with 1X PBS and the wells aspirated to remove liquid.

20      Poly(phe-lys) was purchased from Sigma Chemicals, Inc. This polypeptide has a 1:1 molar ratio of phe:lys and an average m.w. of 47,900 gm/mole. It has an average length of 309 amino acids and contains 155 amines/mole. A 1 mg/ml solution of the polypeptide was mixed with 2M NaCl/1X PBS to a final concentration of

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0.1 mg/ml (pH 6.0). A volume of 200  $\mu$ l of this solution was added to each well. The plate was wrapped in plastic to prevent drying and incubated at 30°C overnight. The plate was then washed 4 times with 1X PBS and the wells aspirated to remove liquid.

5 The following procedure was used to couple the nucleic acid, a complementary sequence to Sequence No. 147, to the plates, hereinafter referred to as immobilized nucleic acid. Synthesis of immobilized 10 nucleic acid having a sequence complementary to Sequence No. 133 was described in EPA 883096976. A quantity of 20 mg disuccinimidyl suberate was dissolved in 300  $\mu$ l dimethyl formamide (DMF). A quantity of 26 OD<sub>260</sub> units of immobilized nucleic acid was added to 15 100  $\mu$ l coupling buffer (50 mM sodium phosphate, pH 7.8). The coupling mixture was then added to the DSS-DMF solution and stirred with a magnetic stirrer for 30 min. An NAP-25 column was equilibrated with 10 mM sodium phosphate, pH 6.5. The coupling mixture 20 DSS-DMF solution was added to 2 ml 10 mM sodium phosphate, pH 6.5, at 4°C. The mixture was vortexed to mix and loaded onto the equilibrated NAP-25 column. DSS-activated immobilized nucleic acid DNA was eluted from the column with 3.5 ml 10 mM sodium phosphate, pH 25 6.5. A quantity of 5.6 OD<sub>260</sub> units of eluted DSS-activated immobilized nucleic acid DNA was added to 1500 ml 50 mM sodium phosphate, pH 7.8. A volume of 50

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μl of this solution was added to each well and the plates were incubated overnight. The plate was then washed 4 times with 1X PBS and the wells aspirated to remove liquid.

5 Final stripping of plates was accomplished as follows. A volume of 200 μl of 0.2N NaOH containing 0.5% (w/v) SDS was added to each well. The plate was wrapped in plastic and incubated at 65°C for 60 min. The plate was then washed 4 times with 1X PBS and the wells aspirated to remove liquid. The stripped plate 10 was stored with desiccant beads at 2-8°C.

Serum samples to be assayed were analyzed using PCR followed by sequence analysis to determine the genotype.

15 Sample preparation consisted of delivering 50 μl of the serum sample and 150 μl P-K Buffer (2 mg/ml proteinase K in 53 mM Tris-HCl, pH 8.0/0.6 M NaCl/0.06 M sodium citrate/8 mM EDTA, pH 8.0/1.3%SDS/16μg/ml sonicated salmon sperm DNA/7% formamide/50 fmoles 20 capture probes/160 fmoles detection probes) to each well. Plates were agitated to mix the contents in the well, covered and incubated for 16 hr at 62°C.

25 After a further 10 minute period at room temperature, the contents of each well were aspirated to remove all fluid, and the wells washed 2X with washing buffer (0.1% SDS/0.015 M NaCl/ 0.0015 M sodium citrate). The amplifier nucleic acid was then added to

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each well (50  $\mu$ l of 0.7 fmole/ $\mu$ l solution in 0..48 M NaCl/0.048 M sodium citrate/0.1% SDS/0.5% "blocking reagent" (Boehringer Mannheim, catalog No. 1096 176)). After covering the plates and agitating to mix the 5 contents in the wells, the plates were incubated for 30 min. at 52°C.

After a further 10 min period at room temperature, the wells were washed as described above.

Alkaline phosphatase label nucleic acid, disclosed 10 in EP 883096976, was then added to each well (50  $\mu$ l/well of 2.66 fmole/ $\mu$ l). After incubation at 52°C for 15 min., and 10 min. at room temperature, the wells were washed twice as above and then 3X with 0.015 M NaCl/0.0015 M sodium citrate.

15 An enzyme-triggered dioxetane (Schaap et al., Tet. Lett. (1987) 28:1159-1162 and EPA Pub. No. 0254051), obtained from Lumigen, Inc., was employed. A quantity of 50  $\mu$ l Lumiphos 530 (Lumigen) was added to each well. The wells were tapped lightly so that the 20 reagent would fall to the bottom and gently swirled to distribute the reagent evenly over the bottom. The wells were covered and incubated at 37°C for 20-40 min.

Plates were then read on a Dynatech ML 1000 25 luminometer. Output was given as the full integral of the light produced during the reaction.

The assay positively detected each of the serum samples, regardless of genotype.

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IV. Expression of the Polypeptide Encoded in Sequences Defined by Differing Genotypes

HCV polypeptides encoded by a sequence within sequences 1-66 are expressed as a fusion polypeptide with superoxide dismutase (SOD). A cDNA carrying such sequences is subcloned into the expression vector pSODcfl (Steimer et al. 1986)).

First, DNA isolated from pSODcfl is treated with BamHI and EcoRI, and the following linker was ligated into the linear DNA created by the restriction enzymes:

5      GAT CCT GGA ATT CTG ATA AGA  
          CCT TAA GAC TAT TTT AA      3

After cloning, the plasmid containing the insert is isolated.

15      Plasmid containing the insert is restricted with EcoRI. The HCV cDNA is ligated into this EcoRI linearized plasmid DNA. The DNA mixture is used to transform E. coli strain D1210 (Sadler et al. (1980)). Polypeptides are isolated on gels.

20      V. Antigenicity of Polypeptides

The antigenicity of polypeptides formed in Section IV is evaluated in the following manner. Polyethylene pins arranged on a block in an 8 12 array (Coselco Mimetopes, Victoria, Australia) are prepared by placing the pins in a bath (20% v/v piperidine in dimethylformamide (DMF)) for 30 minutes at room

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temperature. The pins are removed, washed in DMF for 5 minutes, then washed in methanol four times (2 min/wash). The pins are allowed to air dry for at least 10 minutes, then washed a final time in DMF (5Min). 1-Hydroxybenzotriazole (HOBT, 367 mg) is dissolved in DMF (80  $\mu$ L) for use in coupling Fmoc-protected polypeptides prepared in Section IV.

The protected amino acids are placed in micro-titer plate wells with HOBT, and the pin block 10 placed over the plate, immersing the pins in the wells. The assembly is then sealed in a plastic bag and allowed to react at 25°C for 18 hours to couple the first amino acids to the pins. The block is then removed, and the pins washed with DMF (2 min.), MeOH 15 (4 x, 2 min.), and again with DMF (2 min.) to clean and deprotect the bound amino acids. The procedure is repeated for each additional amino acid coupled, until all octamers are prepared.

The free N-termini are then acetylated to 20 compensate for the free amide, as most of the epitopes are not found at the N-terminus and thus would not have the associated positive charge. Acetylation is accomplished by filling the wells of a microtiter plate with DMF/acetic anhydride/triethylamine (5:2:1 v/v/v) 25 and allowing the pins to react in the wells for 90 minutes at 20°C. The pins are then washed with DMF (2

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min.) and MeOH (4 x, 2 min.), and air dried for at least 10 minutes.

The side chain protecting groups are removed by treating the pins with trifluoroacetic acid/phenol/

5 dithioethane (95:2.5:1.5, v/v/v) in polypropylene bags for 4 hours at room temperature. The pins are then washed in dichloromethane (2 x, 2 min.), 5% di-isopropylethylamine/dichloromethane (2 x, 5 min.), dichloromethane (5 min.), and air-dried for at least 10 minutes. The pins are then washed in water (2 min.), MeOH (18 hours), dried in vacuo, and stored in sealed plastic bags over silica gel. IV.B.15.b Assay of Peptides.

10 Octamer-bearing pins are treated by sonicating for 30 minutes in a disruption buffer (1% sodium dodecylsulfate, 0.1% 2-mercaptoethanol, 0.1 M NaH2PO4) at 60°C. The pins are then immersed several times in water (60°C), followed by boiling MeOH (2 min.), and allowed to air dry.

15 The pins are then precoated for 1 hour at 25°C in microtiter wells containing 200 µL blocking buffer (1% ovalbumin, 1% BSA, 0.1% Tween, and 0.05% NaN3 in PBS), with agitation. The pins are then immersed in microtiter wells containing 175 µL antisera obtained from human patients diagnosed as having HCV and allowed to incubate at 4°C overnight. The formation of a complex between polyclonal antibodies of the serum and

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the polypeptide initiates that the peptides give rise to an immune response in vivo. Such peptides are candidates for the development of vaccines.

Thus, this invention has been described and 5 illustrated. It will be apparent to those skilled in the art that many variations and modifications can be made without departing from the purview of the appended claims and without departing from the teaching and scope of the present invention.

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SEQUENCE LISTING

**(1) GENERAL INFORMATION:**

5 (i) APPLICANT: Tai-An Cha

(ii) TITLE OF INVENTION: HCV GENOMIC SEQUENCES  
FOR DIAGNOSTICS AND THERAPEUTICS

10 (iii) NUMBER OF SEQUENCES: 147

(iv) CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS:

(A) ADDRESSEE: Wolf, Greenfield & Sacks, P.C.

(B) STREET: 600 Atlantic Avenue

15 (C) CITY: Boston

(D) STATE: Massachusetts

(E) COUNTRY: USA

(F) ZIP: 02210

20 (v) COMPUTER READABLE FORM:

(A) MEDIUM TYPE: Diskette, 5.25 inch

(B) COMPUTER: IBM compatible

(C) OPERATING SYSTEM: MS-DOS Version 3.3

(D) SOFTWARE: WordPerfect 5.1

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TCTCTATCTT CCTCTTGGCT CTGCTGTCC

549

## (2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO: 60

5 (i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:  
(A) LENGTH: 549 nucleotides  
(B) TYPE: nucleic acid  
(C) STRANDEDNESS: single  
(D) TOPOLOGY: linear

10 (ii) MOLECULE TYPE: DNA

(vi) ORIGINAL SOURCE:  
(C) INDIVIDUAL ISOLATE: nac5

15 (xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO: 60

ATGAGCACAA	ATCCTAAACC	CCAAAGAAAA	ACCAAAACGTA	40
ACACCAACCG	TCGCCACAG	GACGTCAAGT	TCCCAGGGCGG	80
TGGTCAGATC	GTTGGTGGAG	TTTACCTGTT	GCCGCGCAGG	120
20 GGCCCCAGGT	TGGGTGTGCG	CGCGACTAGG	AAGACTTCCG	160
AGCGGTGCGA	ACCTCGTGGA	AGGCGACAAC	CTATCCCCAA	200
GGCTCGCCGG	CCCCGAGGGCA	GGTCCTGGGC	TCAGCCCCGG	240
TACCCCTTGGC	CCCTCTATGG	CAACGAGGGT	ATGGGGTGGG	280
25 CAGGATGGCT	CCTGTCACCC	CGCGGCTCCC	GGCCTAGTTG	320
GGGCCCCACG	GACCCCCGGC	GTAGGTGCG	TAATTGGGT	360
AAGGTCATCG	ATACCCTCAC	ATGCGGCTTC	GCCGACCTCA	400

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TGGGGTACAT	TCCGCTCGTC	GGCGCCCCCC	TAGGGGGCGC	440
TGCCAGGGCC	CTGGCACATG	GTGTCCGGGT	TCTGGAGGAC	480
GGCGTGAAC	ATGCAACAGG	GAATTGCGCT	GGTTGCTCTT	520
TCTCTATCTT	CCTCTGGCT	CTGCTGTCC		549

5

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO: 61

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

(A) LENGTH: 549 nucleotides

(B) TYPE: nucleic acid

**(C) STRANDEDNESS: single**

(P) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: DNA

15

(vi) ORIGINAL SOURCE:

(C) INDIVIDUAL ISOLATE: arg2

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO: 61

ATGAGCACGA ATCCTAAACC TCAAAGAAAA ACCAAACGTA 40

20

ACACCAACCG CCAGCCCACAG GACGTCAAGT TCCCCGGGGCGG 80

TGGTCAGATC GTTGGTGGAG TTTACCTGTT GCGCGCGCAGG 120

GGCCCCAGGT TGGGTGTGCG CCCCCCTTACGG TACACGTTCCG 160

ACCGCTGCCA AGCTGCTTCA AGCGGAGGCG GTTTCGGGAA 888

25

**TACCCCTGGC CCCTCTATGG CAATGAGGGT ATGGGGTGGG 280**

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(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: DNA

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO: 145

5 CARRAGGAAG AKAGAGAAAG AGCAACCRGG MAR

33

(2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO: 146

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

10 (A) LENGTH: 20 nucleotides  
(B) TYPE: nucleic acid  
(C) STRANDEDNESS: single  
(D) TOPOLOGY: linear

15 (ii) MOLECULE TYPE: DNA

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO: 146

AGGCATAGGA CCCGTGTCTT

20

20 (2) INFORMATION FOR SEQ ID NO: 147

(i) SEQUENCE CHARACTERISTICS:

25 (A) LENGTH: 20 nucleotides  
(B) TYPE: nucleic acid  
(C) STRANDEDNESS: single  
(D) TOPOLOGY: linear

(ii) MOLECULE TYPE: DNA

(xi) SEQUENCE DESCRIPTION: SEQ ID NO: 147

CTTCTTTGGA GAAAGTGGTG

20

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CLAIMS

1. As a composition of matter, a non-naturally occurring nucleic acid having a non-HCV-1 nucleotide sequence of eight or more nucleotides corresponding to a nucleotide sequence within the hepatitis C virus genome.
- 5
2. The composition of claim 1 wherein said nucleotide sequence corresponding to a non-HCV-1 nucleotide sequence within the hepatitis C virus genome is selected from the regions consisting of the NS5 region, envelope 1 region, 5'UT region, and the core region.
- 10
3. The composition of claim 1 wherein said nucleotide sequence corresponding to a non-HCV-1 nucleotide sequence within the hepatitis C virus genome corresponds to a sequence in the NS5 region.
- 15
4. The composition of claim 3 wherein said nucleotide sequence corresponding to a non-HCV-1 sequence within the hepatitis C virus genome is selected from a sequence within sequences numbered 2-22.
- 20

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5. The composition of claim 1 wherein said nucleotide sequence corresponding to a non-HCV-1 nucleotide sequence within the hepatitis C virus genome corresponds to a sequence in the envelope 1 region.

5

6. The composition of claim 5 wherein said nucleotide sequence corresponding to a non-HCV-1 sequence within the hepatitis C virus genome corresponds to a sequence within sequence numbers 24-32.

10

7. The composition of claim 1 wherein at least one sequence corresponding to a non-HCV-1 nucleotide sequence within the hepatitis C virus genome corresponds to a sequence in the 5'UT region.

15

8. The composition of claim 7 wherein said nucleotide sequence corresponding to a non-HCV-1 sequence within the hepatitis C virus genome corresponds to a sequence within sequences numbered 34-51.

20

9. The composition of claim 1 wherein said nucleotide sequence corresponding to a non-HCV-1 nucleotide sequence within the hepatitis C virus genome corresponds to a sequence in the core region.

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10. The composition of claim 9 wherein said nucleotide sequence corresponding to a non-HCV-1 sequence within the hepatitis C virus genome corresponds to a within sequences numbered 53-66.

5

11. The composition of claim 1 wherein said non-naturally occurring nucleic acid has a nucleotide sequence corresponding to one or more genotypes of hepatitis C virus.

10

12. The composition of claim 11 wherein said non-naturally occurring nucleic acid has a sequence corresponding to a sequence of a first genotype which first genotype is defined substantially by sequences

15

numbered 1-6 in the NS5 region, 23-25 in the envelope 1 region, 33-38 in the 5'UT region, and 52-57 in the core region.

20

13. The composition of claim 11 wherein said non-naturally occurring nucleic acid has a sequence corresponding to a sequence of a second genotype which second genotype is defined substantially by sequences numbered 7-12 in the NS5 region, 26-28 in the envelope 1 region, 39-45 in the 5'UT region, and 58-64 in the core region.

25

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14. The composition of claim 11 wherein said non-naturally occurring nucleic acid has a sequence corresponding to a sequence of a third genotype which third genotype is defined substantially by sequences numbered 13-17 in the NS5 region, 32 in the envelope 1 region, 46-47 in the 5'UT region and 65-66 in the core region.
- 5
15. The composition of claim 11 wherein said non-naturally occurring nucleic acid has a sequence corresponding to a sequence of a fourth genotype which fourth genotype is defined substantially by sequences numbered 20-22 in the NS5 region, 29-31 in the envelope 1 region and 48-49 in the 5'UT region.
- 10
16. The composition of claim 11 wherein said non-naturally occurring nucleic acid has a sequence corresponding to a sequence of a fifth genotype which fifth genotype is defined substantially by sequences numbered 18-19 in the NS5 region and 50-51 in the 5'UT region.
- 15
17. The composition of claim 1 wherein said non-naturally occurring nucleic acid is capable of priming a reaction for the synthesis of nucleic acid to form a nucleic acid having a nucleotide sequence corresponding to hepatitis C virus.
- 20
- 25

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18. The composition of claim 1 wherein said non-naturally occurring nucleic acid has label means for detecting a hybridization product.

5 19. The composition of claim 1 wherein said non-naturally occurring nucleic acid has support means for separating a hybridization product from solution.

10 20. The composition of claim 1 wherein said non-naturally occurring nucleic acid prevents the transcription or translation of viral nucleic acid.

15 21. A method of forming a hybridization product with a hepatitis C virus nucleic acid comprising the following steps:

20 a. placing a non-naturally occurring nucleic acid having a nucleotide sequence of eight or more nucleotides corresponding to a non-HCV-1 sequence in the hepatitis C viral genome into conditions in which hybridization conditions can be imposed said non-naturally occurring nucleic acid capable of forming a hybridization product with said hepatitis C virus nucleic acid under hybridization conditions; and

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b. . . imposing hybridization conditions to form a hybridization product in the presence of hepatitis C virus nucleic acid.

5      22. The method of claim 21 wherein said nucleotide sequence corresponding to a non-HCV-1 sequence in the hepatitis C virus genome corresponds to a sequence within at least one of the regions consisting essentially of NS5 region, envelope 1 region, 5'UT 10 region, and the core region.

23. The method of claim 21 wherein said nucleotide sequence corresponds to a non-HCV-1 sequence corresponds to a sequence within the NS5 region.

15      24. The method of claim 23 wherein said nucleotide sequence corresponds to a non-HCV-1 sequence corresponds to a sequence within sequences numbered 2-22.

20      25. The method of claim 21 wherein said nucleotide sequence corresponds to a non-HCV-1 sequence corresponds to a sequence within the envelope 1 region.

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26. The method of claim 25 wherein said nucleotide sequence corresponds to a non-HCV-1 sequence is selected from a sequence within sequences numbered 24-32.

5

27. The method of claim 21 wherein said nucleotide sequence corresponds to a non-HCV-1 sequence corresponding to a sequence within the 5'UT region.

10

28. The method of claim 27 wherein said nucleotide sequence corresponds to a non-HCV-1 sequence selected from a sequence within sequences numbered 34-51.

15

29. The method of claim 21 wherein said nucleotide sequence corresponds to a non-HCV-1 sequence corresponding to a sequence within the core region.

20

30. The method of claim 29 wherein said nucleotide sequence corresponds to a non-HCV-1 sequence selected from a sequence within sequences numbered 53-66.

25

31. The method of claim 21 wherein said nucleotide sequence corresponds to a non-HCV-1 nucleotide sequence corresponding to one or more genotypes of hepatitis C virus.

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32. The method of claim 21 wherein said non-naturally occurring nucleic acid has a sequence corresponding to a sequence of a first genotype which first genotype is defined substantially by sequences numbered 1-6 in the 5 NS5 region, 23-25 in the envelope 1 region, 33-38 in the 5'UT region, and 52-57 in the core region.

33. The method of claim 21 wherein said non-naturally occurring nucleic acid has a sequence corresponding to a sequence of a second genotype which second genotype is defined substantially by sequences numbered 7-12 in the NS5 region, 26-28 in the envelope 1 region, 39-45 in the 5'UT region, and 58-64 in the core region.

34. The method of claim 21 wherein said non-naturally occurring nucleic acid has a sequence corresponding to a sequence of a third genotype which third genotype is defined substantially by sequences numbered 13-17 in the NS5 region, 32 in the envelope 1 region, 46-47 in the 5'UT region and 65-66 in the core region.

35. The method of claim 21 wherein said non-naturally occurring nucleic acid has a sequence corresponding to a sequence of a fourth genotype which fourth genotype is defined substantially by sequences numbered 20-22 in the NS5 region, 29-31 in the envelope 1 region and 48-49 in the 5'UT region.

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36. The method of claim 21 wherein said non-naturally occurring nucleic acid has a sequence corresponding to a sequence of a fifth genotype which fifth genotype is defined substantially by sequences numbered 18-19 in 5 the NSS region and 50-51 in the 5'UT region.

37. The method of claim 21 wherein said hybridization product is capable of priming a reaction for the synthesis of nucleic acid.

10 38. The method of claim 21 wherein said non-naturally occurring nucleic acid has label means for detecting a hybridization product.

15 39. The method of claim 21 wherein said non-naturally occurring nucleic acid has support means for separating the hybridization product from solution.

20 40. The method of claim 21 wherein said non-naturally occurring nucleic acid prevents the transcription or translation of viral nucleic acid.

25 41. As a composition of matter, a non-naturally occurring polypeptide corresponding to a non-HCV-1 nucleotide sequence of nine or more nucleotides which sequence of nine or more nucleotides corresponds to a sequence within hepatitis C virus genomic sequences.

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42. The composition of claim 41 wherein said non-HCV-1 sequence is selected from one of the regions consisting of NS5 region, envelope 1 region, and the core region.

5 43. The composition of claim 41 wherein said non-HCV-1 nucleotide sequence corresponds to a sequence in the NS5 region.

10 44. The composition of claim 43 wherein said non-HCV-1 sequence is selected from a sequence within sequences numbered 2-22.

15 45. The composition of claim 41 wherein said non-HCV-1 sequence corresponds to a sequence in the envelope 1 region.

20 46. The composition of claim 45 wherein said non-HCV-1 sequence is selected from a sequence within sequences numbered 24-32.

47. The composition of claim 41 wherein said non-HCV-1 sequence corresponds to a sequence in the core region.

25 48. The composition of claim 47 wherein said non-HCV-1 sequence is selected from a sequence within sequences numbered 52-66.

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49. The composition of claim 41 wherein said non-HCV-1 nucleotide sequence has a nucleotide sequence corresponding to one or more genotypes of hepatitis C virus.

5

50. The composition of claim 41 wherein said non-HCV-1 nucleotide sequence has a sequence corresponding to a sequence of a first genotype which first genotype is defined substantially by sequences numbered 1-6 in the NS5 region, 23-25 in the envelope 1 region, and 52-57 in the core region.

10

51. The composition of claim 41 wherein said non-HCV-1 nucleotide sequence has a sequence corresponding to a sequence of a second genotype which second genotype is defined substantially by sequences numbered 7-12 in the NS5 region, 26-28 in the envelope 1 region, and 58-64 in the core region.

15

52. The composition of claim 41 wherein said non-HCV-1 nucleotide sequence has a sequence corresponding to a sequence of a third genotype which third genotype is defined substantially by sequences numbered 13-17 in the NS5 region, 32 in the envelope 1 region, and 65-66 in the core region.

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53. The composition of claim 41 wherein said non-HCV-1 nucleotide sequence has a sequence corresponding to a sequence of a fourth genotype which fourth genotype is defined substantially by sequences numbered 20-22 in 5 the NS5 region, 29-31 in the envelope 1 region and 48-49 in the 5'UT region.

54. The composition of claim 41 wherein said non-HCV-1 nucleotide sequence has a sequence corresponding to a 10 sequence of a fifth genotype which fifth genotype is defined substantially by sequences numbered 18-19 in the NS5 region and 50-51 in the 5'UT region.

55. The composition of claim 41 wherein said 15 polypeptide is capable of generating an immune reaction in a host.

56. An antibody capable of selectively binding to the composition of claim 41.

20 57. A method of detecting one or more genotypes of hepatitis C virus comprising the following steps:  
a) placing a non-naturally occurring nucleic acid having a nucleotide sequence of eight or more 25 nucleotides corresponding to one or more genotypes of hepatitis C virus under conditions where hybridization conditions can be imposed,

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b) imposing hybridization conditions to form a hybridization product in the presence of hepatitis C virus nucleic acid; and

5 c) monitoring the non-naturally occurring nucleic acid for the formation of a hybridization product, which hybridization product is indicative of the presence of the genotype of hepatitis C virus.

10 58. The method of claim 57 wherein said non-naturally occurring nucleic acid has a sequence corresponding to a sequence of a first genotype which first genotype is defined substantially by sequences numbered 1-6 in the NSS region, 23-25 in the envelope 1 region, 33-38 in the 5'UT region, and 52-57 in the core region.

15 59. The method of claim 57 wherein said non-naturally occurring nucleic acid has a sequence corresponding to a sequence of a second genotype which second genotype is defined substantially by sequences numbered 7-12 in the NSS region, 26-28 in the envelope 1 region, 39-45 in the 5'UT region, and 58-64 in the core region.

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60. The method of claim 57 wherein said non-naturally occurring nucleic acid has a sequence corresponding to a sequence of a third genotype which third genotype is defined substantially by sequences numbered 13-17 in the NS5 region, 32 in the envelope 1 region, 46-47 in the 5'UT region and 65-66 in the core region.

5

61. The method of claim 57 wherein said non-naturally occurring nucleic acid has a sequence corresponding to a sequence of a fourth genotype which fourth genotype is defined substantially by sequences numbered 20-22 in the NS5 region, 29-31 in the envelope 1 region and 48-49 in the 5'UT region.

10

62. The method of claim 57 wherein said non-naturally occurring nucleic acid has a sequence corresponding to a sequence of a fifth genotype which fifth genotype is defined substantially by sequences numbered 18-19 in the NS5 region.

15

63. The method of claim 57 wherein said non-naturally occurring nucleic acid has a sequence corresponding to a sequence numbered 67-145.

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64. The method of claim 57 wherein said non-naturally occurring nucleic acid has a sequence corresponding to a sequence numbered 69, 71, 73 and 81-99 to identify Group I genotypes in the core and region of the HCV genome.

5

65. The method of claim 57 wherein said non-naturally occurring nucleic acid has a sequence corresponding to a sequence numbered 70, 72, 70 and 100-118 to identify Group II genotypes in the core and envelope regions of the HCV genome.

10

66. The method of claim 57 wherein said non-naturally occurring nucleic acid has a sequence corresponding to a sequence numbered 77 to identify Group III genotypes in the 5' UT region of the HCV genome.

15

67. The method of claim 57 wherein said non-naturally occurring nucleic acid has a sequence numbered 79 to identify Group IV genotypes in the 5' UT region of the HCV genome.

20

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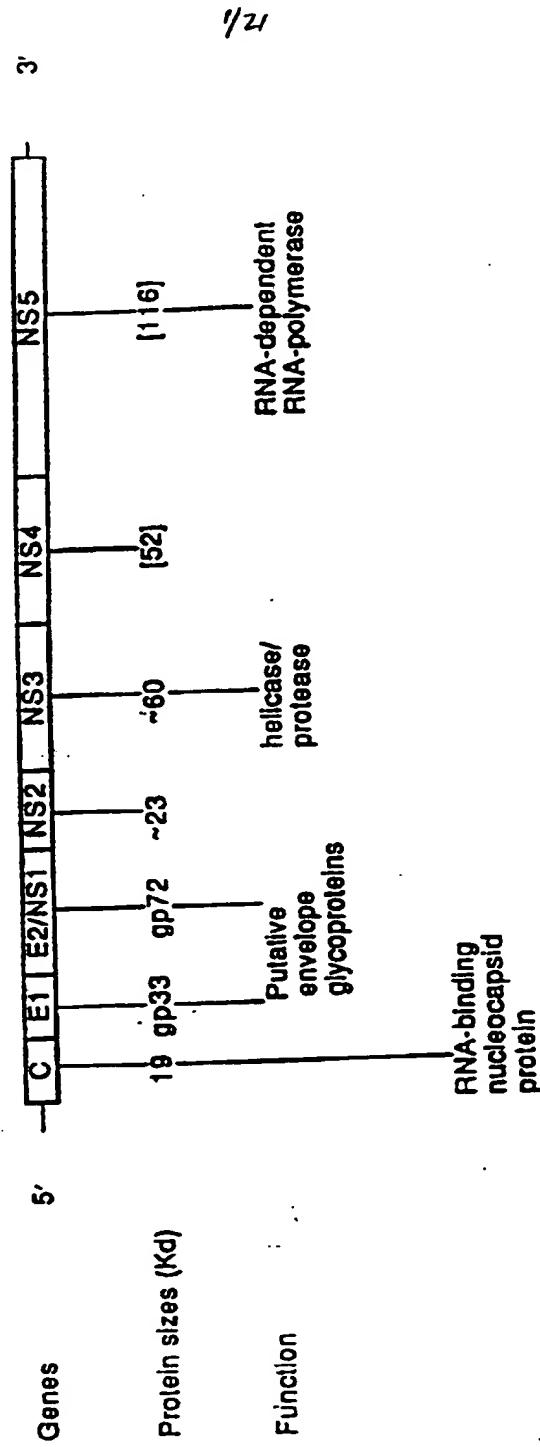


Fig. 1

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## Fig. 2a

## NBS REGION

SEQUENCE	ID NUMBER	GENOTYPE
1	GI	1 CTCACAGTC ACTGAGAGCG ACATCGTAC GGAGAGGCC ATTACCAAT GTTGTACCT CGACCCCCAA
2		1 CTCACAGTC ACTGAGAGCG ACATCGTAC GGAGAGGCC ATTACCAAT GTTGTACCT GGACCCCCAA
3		1 CTCACAGTC ACTGAGAGCG ACATCGTAC GGAGGGGCC ATTACCAAT GTTGTACCT GGACCCCCAA
4		1 CTCACAGTC ACTGAGAGCG ACATCGTAC GGAGGGGCC ATTACCAAT GTTGTACCT GGACCCCCAA
5		1 CTCACAGTC ACTGAGAGCG ATATCGTAC GGAGGGGCC ATTACCAAT GTTGTACCT GGACCCCCAA
6		1 CTCACAGTC ACTGAGAGCG ATATCGTAC GGAGGGGCC ATTACCAAT GTTGTACCT GGACCCCCAA
7	GIII	1 CTCACAGTC ACTGAGAGT ACACCGCTGT TGAGGAGTC ATTACCAAT GTTGTACCT GGCCCCGAA
8		1 CTCACAGTC ACTGAGAGT ACATCGCTGT TGAGGAGTC ATTACCAAT GTTGTACCT GGCCCCGAG
9		1 CTCACAGTC ACCGAGGTC ACATCGCTGT TGAGGAGTC ATTACCAAT GTTGTACCT GGCCCCGAA
10		1 CTCACAGTC ACTGAGAGT ACATCGCTGT CGAGGAGTC ATTACCAAT GTTGTACCT GGCCCCGAA
11		1 CTCACAGTC ACTGAGAGT ACATCGCTGT TGAGGAGTC ATTACCAAT GTTGTACCT GGCCCCGAA
12		1 CTCACAGTC ACTGAGAGT ACATCGCTGT TGAGGAGTC ATTACCAAT GTTGTACCT GGCCCCGAA
13	GIII	1 CTCACAGTC ACTGAGAGG ACATCAAC TGAGGAGTC ATATACCGAG CCTGTCTCTT GCCTGAGGAG
14		1 CTCACAGTC ACTGAGAGG ACATCAAC TGAGGAGTC ATATACCGAG CCTGTCTCTT GCCTGAGGAG
15		1 CTCACAGTC ACAGAGGGG ACATCAAC TGAGGAGTC ATATACCGAG CCTGTCTCTT GCCTGAGGAG
16		1 CTCACAGTC ACAGAGGGG ACATCAAC TGAGGAGTC ATATACCGAG CCTGTCTCTT GCCTGAGGAG
17		1 CTCACAGTC ACAGAGGGG ACATCAAC AGAAAGAAC ATATACCGAG CCTGTCTCTT GCCTGAGGAG
18	GV	1 CTCGACCTT ACCGAACTG ACATTAATAC TGAGAGCTT ATTACCAAT CATTGACTT GGAGCCCTGAG
19		1 CTCGACCTT ACCGAACTG ACATTAATAC TGAGAGCTT ATTACCAAT CATTGACTT GGAGCCCTGAG
20	GV	1 CTCIACUTC ACTGAAACGG ACATCAGGGT GGAAAGGGAG ATATACCGT GCTGTAACT TGAAACCGGAG
21		1 CTCIACUTC ACTGAAACGG ACATCAGGGT GGAAAGGGAG ATATACCGT GCTGTAACT TGAAACCGGAG
22		1 CTCIACUTC ACTGAAACGG ACATCAGGGT GGAAAGGGAG ATATACCGT GCTGTAACT TGAAACCGGAG

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## Fig. 2b

NS5 REGION - (2/5)

SEQUENCE	ID NUMBER	GENOTYPE
1	G1	71
2	G1	71
3	G1	71
4	G1	71
5	G1	71
6	G1	71
7	GII	71
8		71
9		71
10		71
11		71
12		71
13	GIII	71
14		71
15		71
16		71
17		71
18	GV	71
19		71
20	GIV	71
21		71
22		71

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## Fig. 2C

N55 REGION - (3/5)

SEQUENCE	ID NUMBER	GENOTYPE	SEQUENCE
1	GI	141	AGAACTCGG TATCGGAGG TCCCCTCGA GCGGCTACT GACAACATQC TGTGTTAACCA CCCTCACTTG
2		141	AGAACTCGG CTACCGGAGG TCCCCTCGA GCGGCTACT GACAACATQC TGTGTTAACCA CCCTCACTTG
3		141	AGAACTCGG CTACCGGAGG TCCCCTCGA GCGGCTACT GACAACATQC TGTGTTAACCA CCCTCACTTG
4		141	ANAACTCGG CTATCGGAGG TCCCCTCGA GCGGCTACT GACAACATQC TGTGTTAACCA CCCTCACTTG
5		141	AAAACCTGGG CTATCGGAGG TCCCCTCGA GCGGCTACT GACAACATQC TGTGTTAACCA CCCTCACTTG
6		141	AGAACTCGG CTACCGGAGG TCCCCTCGA GCGGCTACT GACAACATQC TGTGTTAACCA CCCTCACTTG
7	GII	141	AGAACTCGG CTATCGGAGG TCCCCTCGA GCGGCTACT GACAACATQC TGTGTTAACCA CCCTCACTTG
8		141	AGAACTCGG CTATCGGAGG TCCCCTCGA GCGGCTACT GACAACATQC TGTGTTAACCA CCCTCACTTG
9		141	AGAACTCGG TTATCGGCGG TCCCCTCGA GCGGCTACT GACAACATQC TGTGTTAACCA CCCTCACTTG
10		141	AGAACTCGG TTATCGGCGG TCCCCTCGA GCGGCTACT GACAACATQC TGTGTTAACCA CCCTCACTTG
11		141	AGAACTCGG CTATCGGCGG TCCCCTCGA GCGGCTACT GACAACATQC TGTGTTAACCA CCCTCACTTG
12		141	AGAACTCGG CTATCGGCGG TCCCCTCGA GCGGCTACT GACAACATQC TGTGTTAACCA CCCTCACTTG
13	GIII	141	AGACCTCGG GTACAGGGT TCCCCTCGA GCGGCTACT GACAACATQC ATGGGAACA CCATCACATG
14		141	AGACCTCGG GTACAGGGT TCCCCTCGA GCGGCTACT GACAACATQC ATGGGAACA CCATCACATG
15		141	ATTCCTCGG GTACAGGGT TCCCCTCGA GCGGAGTGT CACCAACG ATGGGAACA CGCTCACGTG
16		141	ATTCCTCGG GTACAGGGT TCCCCTCGA GCGGAGTGT CACCAACG ATGGGAACA CACTCACGTG
17		141	ATTCCTCGG TTACAGGGT TCCCCTCGA GCGGAGTGT CACCAACG ATGGGAATA CCATGACATG
18	GV	141	AACAATCTGG TTATCGTAGA TCCCCTCGA GCGGCTCTT CACCACTAGT ATGGGAACA CCATGACGTG
19		141	AACAATCTGG TTACCGTAGA TCCCCTCGA GCGGCTCTT CACCACTAGT ATGGGAACA CCATGACGTG
20	GIV	141	CCCACTGGG TTATCGGCGT TCCCCTCGA GTGGAGTCTT GCCTACAGC TTGGGAACA CAATCACTTG
21		141	CCCACTGGG TTATCGGCGT TCCCCTCGA GTGGAGTCTT GCCTACAGC TTGGGAACA CAATCACTTG
22		141	CCCACTGGG TTATCGGCGT TCCCCTCGA GTGGAGTCTT GCCTACAGC TTGGGAACA CAATCACTTG

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## Fig. 2d

N55 REGION - (4/5)

SEQUENCE	ID NUMBER	GENOTYPE	SEQUENCE	ID NUMBER	GENOTYPE
	1	GI	CTACATCAA G	211	CTACATCAA G
	2		CCCGGGGAG	211	CCCGGGGAG
	3		CCCGGGGAG	211	CCCGGGGAG
	4		CCCGGGGAG	211	CCCGGGGAG
	5		CCCGGGGAG	211	CCCGGGGAG
	6		CCCGGGGAG	211	CCCGGGGAG
	7	GI1	CTACCTGAG G	211	CTACCTGAG G
	8		CCCACTGGG	211	CCCACTGGG
	9		CCCACTGGG	211	CCCACTGGG
	10		CCCACTGGG	211	CCCACTGGG
	11		CCCACTGGG	211	CCCACTGGG
	12		CCCACTGGG	211	CCCACTGGG
	13	GI11	CTATGAA A	211	CTATGAA A
	14		CCCCTAGGG	211	CCCCTAGGG
	15		CCCCTAGGG	211	CCCCTAGGG
	16		CCCCTAGGG	211	CCCCTAGGG
	17		CCCCTAGGG	211	CCCCTAGGG
	18	GV	CTACATCAA G	211	CTACATCAA G
	19		CCCAAGGG	211	CCCAAGGG
	20	GV	CTACATCAA G	211	CTACATCAA G
	21		CCCAAGGG	211	CCCAAGGG
	22		CCCAAGGG	211	CCCAAGGG

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## Fig. 2e

NS5 REGION - (5/5)

SEQUENCE	ID NUMBER	GENOTYPE	SEQUENCE
1	G1	281	GACTTAGTCG TTATCTGTGA AAGGCTGGGG GTCAGGAGG ACGCCGGAGG CTCAGAGCC
2		281	GACTTAGTCG TTATCTGTGA AAGGCTGGGG GTCAGGAGG ACGCCGGAGG CTCAGAGCC
3		281	GACTGGTCG TTATCTGTGA AAGGCTGGGG GTCAGGAGG ACGCCGGAGG CTCAGAGCC
4		281	GACTTAGTCG TTATCTGTGA AAGGCTGGGG GTCAGGAGG ACGCCGGAGG CTCAGAGCC
5		281	GACTTAGTCG TTATCTGTGA AAGGCTGGGG GTCAGGAGG ACGCCGGAGG CTCAGAGCC
6		281	GACTTAGTCG TTATCTGTGA AAGGCTGGGG GTCAGGAGG ACGCCGGAGG CTCAGAGCC
7	GII	281	GACCTTGTCG TTATCTGTGA AAGGCTGGGG ACCAAAGGG ACGCCGGAGG CTCAGAGCC
8		281	GACCTTGTCG TTATCTGTGA AAGGCTGGGG ACCAAAGGG ATGCCGGAGG CCTACGAGTC
9		281	GACCTTGTCG TTATCTGTGA AAGGCTGGGG ACCAAAGGG ACGCCGGAGG CCTACGAGTC
10		281	GACCTTGTCG TTATCTGTGA GAGGCCGGAA ACCAAAGGG ACGCCGGAGG CCTACGAGTC
11		281	GACCTTGTCG TTATCTGTGA GAGGCCGGAA ACCAAAGGG ACGCCGGAGG CCTACGAGTC
12		281	GACCTTGTCG TTATCTGTGA GAGGCCGGAA ACCAAAGGG ACGCCGGAGG CCTACGAGTC
13	GIE	281	GACTTAGTCG TCATCTCAGA AAGCCGGGG ACTAAGGGG ACCAGGGAA CCTAGAGCT
14		281	GACCTTGTCG TCATCTCAGA GAGTCAGGG OCTOAGGGG ACCAGGGAA CCTAGAGTC
15		281	GACCTTGTCG TCATCTCAGA GAGTCAGGG GTCAGGGAGG ATAGGGAA CCTAGAGTC
16		281	GACCTTGTCG TCATCTCAGA GAGTCAGGG GTCAGGGAGG ATAGGGAA CCTAGAGTC
17		281	GACCTTGTCG TCATCTCAGA GAGTCAGGG GTCAGGGAGG ATAGGGAA CCTAGAGTC
18	GV	281	GATCTTGTCG CCATTTCGA GAGCCGGGG AGGCAAGGG ATAGAGCAGC CCTGGAGGCC
19		281	ACCTGGTCG CCATTTCGA GAGCCGGGG AGGCAAGGG ATAGAGCAGC CCTGGAGGCC
20	GIV	281	GATCTTGTCG TGTGCTGA GAGTCAGGG ATAGAGCAGC CCTGGAGGCC
21		281	GATCTTGTCG TGTGCTGA GAGTCAGGG ATAGAGCAGC CCTGGAGGCC
22		281	GATCTTGTCG TGTGCTGA GAGTCAGGG ATAGAGCAGC CCTGGAGGCC

340 TOTAL

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## Fig. 3

## ENVELOPE REGION

SEQUENCE ID NUMBER	GENOTYPE	SEQUENCE
23	GI	1 GACGGCGTTG GAAATGGCTC AGCTGCTCCG GATCCCCACAA GGCATCTGG ACATGATGCC
24		1 GACGGCGTTG GTGGTAGCTC AGGTACTCCG GATCCCCACAA GGCATCTGG ACATGATGCC
25		1 AAGGGCGCTG GTAGTAGCTC AGCTGCTCG GGTCTGG ACATGATGCC
26	GII	1 GACAGCCCTA GTGGTAGCTC AGGTACTCCG GATCCCCACAA GGCATCTGG ATATGGTGGC
27		1 AGCAGCCCTA GTGGTAGCTC AGGTACTCCG GATCCCCACAA AGCATGGG ACATGATGCC
28		1 GGCAGCCCTA GTGGTAGCTC AGGTACTCCG GATCCCCACAA GGCATCTGG ACATGATGCC
29	GIV	1 TGTGGTATG GTGGTAGCTC AGGTGGGGCG TTGGCCCCAG ACCCTGGCG ACATAATAGC
30		1 TGTGGTATG GTGGTAGCTC AGGTGGGGCG TCTGGCCCCAG ACCCTGGCG ACATAATAGC
31		1 TGTGGTATG GTGGTAGCTC AAGTGGGGCG TTGGCCCCAG ACCCTGGCG ACGTGCTAGC
32	GIII	1 TACCACTATG CTCCTGGCAT ACCTGGTGGC CATCCCCGG ACATTATCAC
23	GI	61 TGGTGCTCAC TGGGGAGTCC TGGGGGGCAT AGGGTATTAC
24		61 TGGAGCCAC TGGGGAGTCC TGGGGGGCAT AGGGTATTAC
25		61 TGGTGCCAC TGGGGAGTCC TAGGGGGCAT AGGGTATTAC
26	GII	61 GGGGGCCAC TGGGGAGTCC TGGGGGGCAT TGGCTACTAT
27		61 GGGGGCCAC TGGGGAGTCC TGGGGGGCAT TGGCTACTAT
28		61 GGGGGCCAC TGGGGAGTCC TAGGGGGCAT TGGCTACTAT
29	GIV	61 CGGGGCCAT TGGGGCAT TGGGGGGCAT TGGCTACTAT
30		61 CGGGGCCAT TGGGGGGCAT TGGCAAGGCT AGGGTATTAC
31		61 CGGGGCCAT TGGGGGGCAT TGGGGGGCAT CGGGTATTAC
32	GIII	61 GGGAGGACAC TggGGGCGTGA TTTTGGCTT GGGTATTAC
		100 Total

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## Fig. 4a

## 5'UT Region

SEQUENCE	ID NUMBER	GENOTYPE
33	GI	1
34		1
35		1
36		1
37		1
38		1
39	GI I	1
40		1
41		1
42		1
43		1
44		1
45		1
46	GI II	1
47		1
48	GI V	1
49		1
50	GV	1
51		1

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Fig. 4b

S'UT Region (2/5)

SEQUENCE ID	NUMBER	GENOTYPE
33	G1	61
34		61
35		61
36		61
37		61
38		61
39	G1R	61
40		61
41		61
42		61
43		61
44		61
45		61
46	G1II	61
47		61
48	G1V	61
49		61
50	GV	61
51		61

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## Fig: 4C

5'UT Region (3/5)

SEQUENCE	ID NUMBER	GENOTYPE	SEQUENCE	ID NUMBER	GENOTYPE	
33	6I	121	GCTCAATGCC TGGAGATTG GGCCTGCC CGCAAGACTG CTAGCCAGT AGTCCTGGGT	34	121	GCTCAATGCC TGGAGATTG GGCCTGCC CGCAAGACTG CTAGCCAGT AGTCCTGGGT
35	121	GCTCAATGCC TGGAGATTG GGCCTGCC CGCAAGACTA CTAGCCAGT AGTCCTGGGT	36	121	GCTCAATGCC TGGAGATTG GGCCTGCC CGCAAGACTG CTAGCCAGT AGTCCTGGGT	
37	121	GCTCAATGCC TGGAGATTG GGCCTGCC CGCAAGACTG CTAGCCAGT AGTCCTGGGT	38	121	GCTCAATGCC TGGAGATTG GGCCTGCC CGCAAGACTG CTAGCCAGT AGTCCTGGGT	
39	GII	121	GCTCAATGCC TGGAGATTG GGCCTGCC CGCAAGACTG CTAGCCAGT AGTCCTGGGT	40	121	GCTCAATGCC TGGAGATTG GGCCTGCC CGCAAGACTG CTAGCCAGT AGTCCTGGGT
41	121	GCTCAATGCC TGGAGATTG GGCCTGCC CGCAAGACTG CTAGCCAGT AGTCCTGGGT	42	121	GCTCAATGCC TGGAGATTG GGCCTGCC CGCAAGACTG CTAGCCAGT AGTCCTGGGT	
43	121	GCTCAATGCC TGGAGATTG GGCCTGCC CGCAAGACTG CTAGCCAGT AGTCCTGGGT	44	121	GCTCAATGCC TGGAGATTG GGCCTGCC CGCAAGACTG CTAGCCAGT AGTCCTGGGT	
45	121	GCTCAATGCC TGGAGATTG GGCCTGCC CGCAAGACTG CTAGCCAGT AGTCCTGGGT	46	GIII	121	GCTCAATGCC TGGAGATTG GGCCTGCC CGCAAGACTG CTAGCCAGT AGTCCTGGGT
47	121	GCTCAATGCC TGGAGATTG GGCCTGCC CGCAAGACTG CTAGCCAGT AGTCCTGGGT	48	GIV	121	GCTCAATGCC CAGAAATTG GGCCTGCC CGCAAGACTA CTAGCCAGT AGTCCTGGGT
49	121	GCTCAATGCC CAGAAATTG GGCCTGCC CGCAAGACTA CTAGCCAGT AGTCCTGGGT	50	GIV	121	GCTCAATGCC CGAGATTG GGCCTGCC CGCAAGACTG CTAGCCAGT AGTCCTGGGT
51	121	GCTCAATGCC CGAGATTG GGCCTGCC CGCAAGACTG CTAGCCAGT AGTCCTGGGT				

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## Fig. 4d

## ENVELOPE REGION (4/5)

SEQUENCE ID	NUMBER	GENOTYPE
33	GI	181 CGCGAAAGGC CTTGTGTAC TGCCGTATAG GGTGCTTGGC AGTGCCTCCGG GAGGTCTCGT
34		181 CGCGAAAGGC CTTGTGTAC TGCCGTATAG GGTGCTTGGC AGTGCCTCCGG GAGGTCTCGT
35		181 CGCGAAAGGC CTTGTGTAC TGCCGTATAG GGTGCTTGGC AGTGCCTCCGG GAGGTCTCGT
36		181 CGCGAAAGGC CTTGTGTAC TGCCGTATAG GGTGCTTGGC AGTGCCTCCGG GAGGTCTCGT
37		181 CGCGAAAGGC CTTGTGTAC TGCCGTATAG GGTGCTTGGC AGTGCCTCCGG GAGGTCTCGT
38		181 CGCGAAAGGC CTTGTGTAC TGCCGTATAG GGTGCTTGGC AGTGCCTCCGG GAGGTCTCGT
39	GII	181 CGCGAAAGGC CTTGTGTAC TGCCGTATAG GGTGCTTGGC AGTGCCTCCGG GAGGTCTCGT
40		181 CGCGAAAGGC CTTGTGTAC TGCCGTATAG GGTGCTTGGC AGTGCCTCCGG GAGGTCTCGT
41		181 CGCGAAAGGC CTTGTGTAC TGCCGTATAG GGTGCTTGGC AGTGCCTCCGG GAGGTCTCGT
42		181 CGCGAAAGGC CTTGTGTAC TGCCGTATAG GGTGCTTGGC AGTGCCTCCGG GAGGTCTCGT
43		181 CGCGAAAGGC CTTGTGTAC TGCCGTATAG GGTGCTTGGC AGTGCCTCCGG GAGGTCTCGT
44		181 CGCGAAAGGC CTTGTGTAC TGCCGTATAG GGTGCTTGGC AGTGCCTCCGG GAGGTCTCGT
45		181 CGCGAAAGGC CTTGTGTAC TGCCGTATAG GGTGCTTGGC AGTGCCTCCGG GAGGTCTCGT
46	GII	181 TGGCAAAGGC CTTGTGTAC TGCCGTATAG GGTGCTTGGC AGTGCCTCCGG GAGGTCTCGT
47		181 TGGCAAAGGC CTTGTGTAC TGCCGTATAG GGTGCTTGGC AGTGCCTCCGG GAGGTCTCGT
48	GIV	181 CGCGAAAGGC CTTGTGTAC TGCCGTATAG GGTGCTTGGC AGTGCCTCCGG GAGGTCTCGT
49		181 CGCGAAAGGC CTTGTGTAC TGCCGTATAG GGTGCTTGGC AGTGCCTCCGG GAGGTCTCGT

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## Fig. 4e

## 5'UT Region (5/5)

SEQUENCE	ID NUMBER	GENOTYPE	
.....	33	GT	241 AGACCGGTGCA CC
.....	34		241 AGACCGGTGCA CC
.....	35		241 AGACCGGTGCA CC
.....	36		241 AGACCGGTGCA CC
.....	37		241 AGACCGGTGCA CC
.....	38		241 AGACCGGTGCA CC
.....	39	GTT	241 AGACCGGTGCA CC
.....	40		241 AGACCGGTGCA TC
.....	41		241 AGACCGGTGCA CC
.....	42		241 AGACCGGTGCA CC
.....	43		241 AGACCGGTGCA CC
.....	44		241 AGACCGGTGCA CC
.....	45		241 AGACCGGTGCA CC
.....	46	GIII	241 AGACCGGTGCA TC
.....	47		241 AGACCGGTGCA TC
.....	48	GIV	241 AGACCGGTGCA AC
.....	49		241 AGACCGGTGCA AC
			252 Total

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**Fig. 5a****CORE REGION**

SEQUENCE	ID NUMBER	GENOTYPE	CORE REGION
52	G1	1	ATAGGACGA ATCCTAACC TCAAAAAAA ACCAAACGT ACACCAACG TGGCCACAG
53		1	ATAGGACGA ATCCTAACC TCAAGAAAA ACCAAACGT ACACCAACG TGGCCACAG
54		1	ATAGGACGA ATCCTAACC TCAAGAAAA ACCAAACGT ACACCAACG TGGCCACAG
55		1	ATAGGACGA ATCCTAACC TCAAGAAAA ACCAAACGT ACACCAACG TGGCCACAG
56		1	ATAGGACGA ATCCTAACC TCAAGAAA ACCAAACGT ACACCAACG TGGCCACAG
57		1	ATAGGACGA ATCCTAACC TCAAGAAAA ACCAAACGT ACACCAACG TGGCCACAG
58	GII	1	ATAGGACGA ATCCTAACC TCAAGAAA ACCAAACGT ACACCAACG CGGCCACAG
59		1	ATAGGACAA ATCCTAACC TCAAGAAA ACCAAACGT ACACCAACG CGGCCACAG
60		1	ATAGGACAA ATCCTAACC CCAAGAAA ACCAAACGT ACACCAACG TGGCCACAG
61		1	ATAGGACGA ATCCTAACC TCAAGAAA ACCAAACGT ACACCAACG CGGCCACAG
62		1	ATAGGACGA ATCCTAACC TCAAGAAA ACCAAACGT ACACCAACG CGGCCACAG
63		1	ATAGGACGA ATCCTAACC TCAAGAAA ACCAAACGT ACACCAACG CGGCCACAG
64		1	ATAGGACGA ATCCTAACC TCAAGAAA ACCAAACGT ACACCAACG CGGCCACAG
65	GIII	1	ATAGGACAA ATCCTAACC TCAAGAAA ACCAAAGAA ACACTAACG CGGCCACAG
66		1	ATAGGACAA ATCCTAACC TCAAGAAA ACCAAAGAA ACACTAACG CGGCCACAG

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## Fig. 5b

## CORE REGION (2/9)

SEQUENCE	ID NUMBER	GENOTYPE
52	61	GACGTCAAGT TCCCAGGTGG CCGTCAGATC GTTGCTGGAG TTAACCTGTT GCCCAGG
53	61	GACGTCAAGT TCCCAGGTGG CGTCAGATC GTTGCTGGAG TTACCTGTT GCCCAGG
54	61	GACGTCAAGT TCCCAGGTGG CGTCAGATC GTTGCTGGAG TTACCTGTT GCCCAGG
55	61	GACGTCAAGT TCCCAGGTGG CGTCAGATC GTTGCTGGAG TTACCTGTT GCCCAGG
56	61	GACGTCAAGT TCCCAGGTGG CGTCAGATC GTTGCTGGAG TTACCTGTT GCCCAGG
57	61	GACGTCAAGT TCCCAGGTGG CGTCAGATC GTTGCTGGAG TTACCTGTT GCCCAGG
58	61	GACGTCAAGT TCCCAGGTGG TGGCAGATC GTTGCTGGAG TTACCTGTT GCCCAGG
59	61	GACGTCAAGT TCCCAGGTGG TGGCAGATC GTTGCTGGAG TTACCTGTT GCCCAGG
60	61	GACGTCAAGT TCCCAGGTGG TGGCAGATC GTTGCTGGAG TTACCTGTT GCCCAGG
61	61	GACGTCAAGT TCCCAGGTGG TGGCAGATC GTTGCTGGAG TTACCTGTT GCCCAGG
62	61	GACGTCAAGT TCCCAGGTGG TGGCAGATC GTTGCTGGAG TTACCTGTT GCCCAGG
63	61	GACGTCAAGT TCCCAGGTGG TGGCAGATC GTTGCTGGAG TTACCTGTT GCCCAGG
64	61	GACGTCAAGT TCCCAGGTGG TGGCAGATC GTTGCTGGAG TTACCTGTT GCCCAGG
65	61	GACGTCAAGT TCCCAGGTGG TGGCAGATC GTTGCTGGAG TATACTGTT GCCCAGG
66	61	GACGTCAAGT TCCCAGGTGG TGGCAGATC GTTGCTGGAG TATACTGTT GCCCAGG

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## Fig. 5c

## CORE REGION (3/9)

SEQUENCE	ID NUMBER	GENOTYPE
52	G1	121
53		121
54		121
55		121
56		121
57		121
58	G11	121
59		121
60		121
61		121
62		121
63		121
64		121
65	G111	121
66		121

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## Fig. 5d

## CORE REGION (4/9)

SEQUENCE	ID NUMBER	GENOTYPE
52	61	AGACCTCAGC CTATCCCCAA GGCTCTGGGG CCCGAGGGCA GGACCTGGGG TCAGCCCCGG
53	181	AGACCTCAGC CTATCCCCAA GGCTCTGGGG CCCGAGGGCA GGACCTGGGG TCAGCCCCGG
54	181	AGACCTCAGC CTATCCCCAA GGCTCTGGGG CCCGAGGGCA GGACCTGGGG TCAGCCCCGG
55	181	AGACCTCAGC CTATCCCCAA GGCTCTGGGG CCCGAGGGCA GGACCTGGGG TCAGCCCCGG
56	181	AGACCTCAGC CTATCCCCAA GGCTCTGGGG CCCGAGGGCA GGACCTGGGG TCAGCCCCGG
57	181	AGACGGCCAGC CTATCCCCAA GGCGCGCTGGG CCCGAGGGCA GGACCTGGGG TCAGCCCCGG
58	61	AGGGGACAAC CTATCCCCAA GGCTCGCCAG CCCGAGGGCA GGCCCTGGGG TCAGCCCCGG
59	181	AGGGGACAAC CTATCCCCAA GGCTCGCCAG CCCGAGGGCA GGCCCTGGGG TCAGCCCCGG
60	181	AGGGGACAAC CTATCCCCAA GGCTCGCCAG CCCGAGGGCA GGCCCTGGGG TCAGCCCCGG
61	181	AGGGGACAAC CTATCCCCAA GGCTCGCCAG CCCGAGGGCA GGCCCTGGGG TCAGCCCCGG
62	181	AGGGGACAAC CTATCCCCAA GGCTCGCCAG CCCGAGGGCA GGCCCTGGGG TCAGCCCCGG
63	181	AGGGGACAAC CTATCCCCAA GGCTCGCCAG CCCGAGGGCA GGCCCTGGGG TCAGCCCCGG
64	181	AGGGGACAAC CTATCCCCAA GGCTCGCCAG CCCGAGGGCA GGCCCTGGGG TCAGCCCCGG
65	6111	AGGCGTCAGC CCATCCCCAA AGATCGTCGC ACCCTGGCA AGGGCCAGGA
66	181	AGGCGCCAGC CCATCCCCAA AGATCGGC ACCACTGGCA AGGGCCAGGA

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Fig. 5e

## CORE REGION (5/9)

SEQUENCE ID NUMBER	GENOTYPE
52	G1
53	241
54	241
55	241
56	241
57	241
58	G11
59	241
60	241
61	241
62	241
63	241
64	241
65	G11
66	241

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## Fig. 5f

## CORE REGION (6/9)

SEQUENCE	ID NUMBER	GENOTYPE
52	G1	301
53		301
54		301
55		301
56		301
57		301
58	G11	301
59		301
60		301
61		301
62		301
63		301
64		301
65	G111	301
66		301

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## Fig. 5g

CORE REGION (7/9)

SEQUENCE	ID NUMBER	GENOTYPE
52	Q1	361
53		361
54		361
55		361
56		361
57		361
58	GII	361
59		361
60		361
61		361
62		361
63		361
64		361
65	GIII	361
66		361

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## Fig. 5h

## CORE REGION (8/9)

SEQUENCE	ID NUMBER	GENOTYPE	SEQUENCE	ID NUMBER	GENOTYPE
52	GI	421	GGCGCCCCTC	TRGGAGGGGC	TGCCAGGGCC
53		421	GGCGCCCCTC	TRGGAGGGGC	TGCCAGGGCT
54		421	GGCGCCCCTC	TRGGAGGGGC	TGCCAGGGCT
55		421	GGCGCCCCTC	TRGGAGGGGC	TGCCAGGGCT
56		421	GGCGCCCCTC	TRGGAGGGGC	TGCCAGGGCT
57		421	GGCGCCCCTC	TRGGAGGGGC	TGCCAGGGCT
58	GII	421	GGCGCCCCTC	TRGGAGGGGC	TGCCAGGGCT
59		421	GGCGCCCCTC	TRGGAGGGGC	TGCCAGGGCT
60		421	GGCGCCCCTC	TRGGAGGGGC	TGCCAGGGCT
61		421	GGCGCCCCTC	TRGGAGGGGC	TGCCAGGGCT
62		421	GGCGCCCCTC	TRGGAGGGGC	TGCCAGGGCT
63		421	GGCGCCCCTC	TRGGAGGGGC	TGCCAGGGCT
64		421	GGCGCCCCTC	TRGGAGGGGC	TGCCAGGGCT
65	GIII	421	GGGCCCCG	TRGGAGGGT	TGCCAGGGCT
66		421	GGGCCCCG	TRGGAGGGT	TGCCAGGGCT

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## Fig. 51

CORE REGION (9/9)

SEQUENCE	ID NUMBER	GENOTYPE
52	G1	481 GCGTGAAC TATGAAACGG GAACTCTCT GGTGCTCT TCTCTATCTT CCGTCCTGGCC CTCGCTCTCT
53		481 GCGTGAAC TATGAAACGG GAACTCTCT GGTGCTCT TCTCTATCTT CCGTCCTGGCC CTCGCTCTCT
54		481 GCGTGAAC TATGAAACGG GAACTCTCT GGTGCTCT TCTCTATCTT CCGTCCTGGCC CTCGCTCTCT
55		481 GCGTGAAC TATGAAACGG GAACTCTCT GGTGCTCT TCTCTATCTT CCGTCCTGGCC CTCGCTCTCT
56		481 GCGTGAAC TATGAAACGG GAACTCTCT GGTGCTCT TCTCTATCTT CCGTCCTGGCC CTCGCTCTCT
57		481 GCGTGAAC TATGAAACGG GAACTCTCT GGTGCTCT TCTCTATCTT CCGTCCTGGCC CTCGCTCTCT
58	G11	481 GCGTGAAC TCGAAACGG GAACTCTCT GGTGCTCT TCTCTATCTT CCGTCCTGGCT CTCGCTCTCC
59		481 GCGTGAAC TCGAAACGG GAACTCTCT GGTGCTCT TCTCTATCTT CCGTCCTGGCT CTCGCTCTCC
60		481 GCGTGAAC TCGAAACGG GAACTCTCT GGTGCTCT TCTCTATCTT CCGTCCTGGCT CTCGCTCTCC
61		481 GCGTGAAC TCGAAACGG GAACTCTCT GGTGCTCT TCTCTATCTT CCGTCCTGGCT CTCGCTCTCC
62		481 GCGTGAAC TCGAAACGG GAACTCTCT GGTGCTCT TCTCTATCTT CCGTCCTGGCT CTCGCTCTCC
63		481 GCGTGAAC TCGAAACGG GAACTCTCT GGTGCTCT TCTCTATCTT CCGTCCTGGCT CTCGCTCTCC
64		481 GCGTGAAC TCGAAACGG GAACTCTCT GGTGCTCT TCTCTATCTT CCGTCCTGGCT CTCGCTCTCC
65	G111	481 GCGTAAATT ATGCAACGG GAACTCTCT GGTGCTCT TCTCTATCTT CTCGCTGGCT CTCGCTCTCC
66		481 GCGTAAATT ATGCAACGG GAACTCTCT GGTGCTCT TCTCTATCTT CTCGCTGGCT CTCGCTCTCC

549 Total

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